

The Baptist Record

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Seminary grad makes global personal crusade

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Embracing Christ's mandate to share the gospel throughout the world, Marcel Taflinger spent the summer in Europe, the fall in Japan, and winter in the Philippines, preaching over 200 times in 50 locations.

Taflinger grew up in a bilingual home in Pullman, Wash., speaking French and English. While his dual culture later was turned by God into an advantage, Taflinger suffered from a severe identity crisis because of no "definite" cultural identity.

"I was not really American nor French and the European-style upbringing brought me to the point of not really knowing who I was," Taflinger said.

While a 22-year-old student at Washington State University, Taflinger accepted Christ. He then realized the answer to his questions of identity: He was a child of God. Immediately he knew God had prepared him for international ministry.

After Taflinger graduated with a degree in urban planning, he went to Switzerland to work as an architect. Using some German learned through professional contacts, he began witnessing to co-workers and experienced God's call to ministry. Taflinger came to Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., in 1985.

"I knew God directed me," Taflinger said. "The proximity for hands-on experience was just incredible."

While at the seminary, Taflinger started the international student advisor's office, a ministry to help the many international students at Golden Gate adjust to life in the United States. After spending two years in that ministry, a Japanese family invited him to teach English in Japan. Taflinger went there in 1988 and started a church while fulfilling his assignment.

Returning to Golden Gate in 1989 to finish his degree, Taflinger

became involved with the Scandinavian Seaman's Mission, where he conducted services aboard ships and witnessed to crewmen. Through contacts in this ministry, he was invited to preach in Sweden after graduating in 1991.

Taflinger journeyed to Sweden to work with Youth With A Mission in a four-week crusade to reach North African Muslims in the streets of Stockholm.

"These Muslims were looking for real answers," Taflinger said. "I helped them see that truth could only be found in Jesus."

Taflinger credits the many lives transformed and his personal safety to the prayer provided by students at Golden Gate. "I never suffered want of any kind while I was there," he said. "The Korean students prayed for me every day I was there. I was never in need."

After the Sweden crusade, Taflinger traveled to Germany, then France.

After returning to the United States, Oakland pastor Joe Garfield invited Taflinger to join a crusade in the Philippines. Earlier this year they arrived and began preaching and witnessing in Sebu City's slum areas and squatter villages. Taflinger and Garfield worked with another group to evangelize the mountain areas near Leyte. With a local pastor as interpreter, Taflinger preached and led training seminars for local leaders. As a result, hundreds accepted Christ.

In the shadow of Mt. Pinatubo, the crusade then traveled to the area devastated by the volcano. Taflinger worked with Southern Baptist missionaries in the area to hold nightly crusades which saw over 100 people accept Christ. Through his global witnessing experiences, Taflinger logged more than 50,000 miles and preached more than 200 times.

"God has a desire to use us," Taflinger said. "There are a lot of opportunities for us to serve if only we are willing to go."



Flour arrives in Albania

WE DELIVER — A worker unloads a sack of flour in Albania while wearing an empty sack as protection from the rain. Five 18-wheel trucks filled with 142 tons of flour provided by Southern Baptists, Canadian Baptists, and the Baptist World Alliance arrived in April at a

bakery in Tirana, Albania's capital city. The flour will be baked into bread to help alleviate serious food shortages in the newly democratic nation. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

Baptists will begin work in once-atheistic Albania

By Mike Creswell

TIRANA, Albania (BP) — Baptists are poised to begin ministry in Albania, once said to be the most atheistic country in the world.

The European country of 3.3 million people formerly remained aloof from Western, Soviet, and Chinese influence and banned all religions. But its strict communist regime has finally fallen domino-style like those in other Eastern European countries.

In March Albanians voted for democracy. On April 9 Sali Berisha, a heart surgeon, was elected as Albania's first non-communist president.

Southern Baptists expect to send their first missionaries to Albania later this year. But a Scottish Baptist missionary couple already has located a residence in Tirana and will be moving there this spring with two small children. Chris and Mairi Burnett, both physicians, are missionaries with the Baptist Mis-

sionary Society of England.

Albania needs all the help it can get. Decades of isolationist communism have left it with virtually no economic system. Unemployment reportedly hovers at 80%. Virtually all factories have closed. A year ago one American dollar exchanged for 10 leks, the national currency. By mid-April the black market rate was 90 leks for \$1.

Historically Albania was considered to be about 80% Muslim, with the rest of the population divided among Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. But two generations of Albanians have grown up with virtually no religious instruction. All religion was banned in Albania for decades. In 1967 the government closed 2,169 mosques, churches, and convents and ordered them destroyed or converted to secular use.

To walk the streets of Tirana, Albania's capital, is to step 50

years back in time.

Albania, a country of 3.3 million people in Eastern Europe, nestles between Greece and splintering Yugoslavia. But the streets feel like a booming Third-World village.

Cars were illegal and impossibly costly for Albanians until last year. Now cars and trucks fill the streets. Horns honk as new drivers speed down streets filled with horse-drawn wagons and pedestrians unaccustomed to watching for cars.

"Milk has not been available here at any price for two years," another woman said.

In the topsy-turvy world of communism-meets-the-real-world, American dollars vie with Albanian leks for a place in the economy. A steak-and-rice dinner, possibly with spinach, costs about \$2. But a can of Coca-Cola, imported from Greece, costs the same.

Creswell writes for FMB.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

To whom shall we turn?

World missions suffered a great loss in the retirement of Keith Parks. For 38 years, the last 11 as Foreign Mission Board president, he guided the vast resources of the SBC in foreign mission activities.

The mission board has always turned to spiritual stalwarts to head the agency. Missions would be on their hearts and minds. They were dreamers and doers such as Baker James Cauthen, Theron Rankin, R. F. Willingham, and Dr. Tupper. Keith Parks continued this tradition but was the first to be unsaddled and put out to pasture. Where will the trustees now turn for a president?

What will be the determinant in the election of a new president? Will it be a missionary vision or

political reward, or both? Rumors and conjectures are cropping up like kudzu sprouts:

— Should the new president be an experienced missionary or someone without missionary experience, but who has vision, with missions on his heart?

— How much will the 14-year-old SBC controversy influence the trustees?

— The trustees are elected by the SBC and are not necessarily representatives of state conventions. However, the Foreign Mission Board still belongs to all Southern Baptists and not to a handful of board members.

— The retirement of Parks was painful to many people and could well be near the last

straw for some. His replacement could well be that straw.

— Obviously the next president of the Foreign Mission Board will not be like Keith Parks. He could well have the missionary vision, the deep concern for world missions, and great administrative skills, but will he be chosen by the same people who retired Parks?

No one is indispensable, and there is a Joshua waiting after any Moses. In the SBC there are capable and compassionate men with an abiding desire to share the gospel worldwide. Let us pray the trustees will seek him out. The lives of our sons and daughters are invested in this; our resources are committed, and nations are in commotion.

Hope follows grieving for unemployed

By Terri Lackey

NASHVILLE (BP) — Unemployed persons who have lost their jobs through layoffs or firings go through grief patterns similar to those accompanying the death of a loved one or divorce, three officials agreed.

Shock, disbelief, anger, hostility, despair, bargaining, self-pity, loss of self-esteem, and embarrassment are common emotions among people who have lost their jobs, said Fred McGeehee, a career assessment consultant in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Administration Department.

"People who have lost their jobs work with a lot of different feelings like anger, fear, and hopelessness but they also experience anticipation and zest as they come to find another job," McGeehee said.

A good attitude is the name of the game when it comes to looking for another job, said McGeehee, although he acknowledged it is normal for a person to experience some of the stages of grief before he or she arrives at a point of hope.

Losing one's job in the 1990s is not the social stigma it once was, McGeehee believes.

"I would think now that firings and layoffs are so common that other than the embarrassment that might come to the family and the threat from the economical setback, it is a situation other people understand," he said. "It is not as shameful to be laid off anymore."

"But I do believe these people might feel a sense of loss of self-esteem because their identity through their vocation has been lost."

James Cotham III, acting dean of the Jack C. Massey Graduate

School of Business for Belmont University in Nashville, said losing one's job usually takes a person by surprise.

"Many, many people who see it happening to other people say, 'Well, that won't happen to me,'" said Cotham, author of the book, *Career Shock*.

When it does, "they feel sorry for themselves and they are totally unproductive for a while," he said. "It's a slam to their self-esteem. Because of the psychological shock, it takes 30 to 60 days for them to come to grips."

"After a while, people tend to get a hold of themselves and figure out what they are going to do," he said.

Cotham said middle managers and professionals can expect to be out of work for about six months to a year while technical and clerical workers will probably find another job within 90 days to six months.

Churches should get involved in the plight of their unemployed members, Cotham said. Maurice Graham, associate pastor of Bon Air Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., agrees.

That is why he conducts bi-monthly support groups for unemployed church members and has established an ongoing benevolence fund to help those who are financially strapped. The church also has developed a job bank where members can notify the church about job openings in the area.

"Basically, what our church tries to do is help people cope emotionally, spiritually and financially," Graham said.

"Almost all these people are ask-

ing themselves the questions, 'What did I do wrong?' 'Is God trying to get my attention?' 'Have I not been faithful enough to God?'

"There is a spiritual dimension as well as an emotional dimension to unemployment," he said.

Practical concerns also are an issue, the three men agree.

How to write resumes and complete successful interviews are critical aspects of finding a new job, and a person who has long-standing tenure in one company may have forgotten how to perform those tasks, Cotham said.

"The worst mistake a person can make is turning in a bad resume," he said.

Graham recommends the unemployed person locate a career counseling center offered through the community or church to help in these areas and McGeehee suggests "socio-emotional" support systems and books.

"You need a few key people who can encourage you and help you with problem solving and give you objective feedback on how you're really doing," McGeehee said. "And you need to read a few good books."

Books suggested by McGeehee include: *What Color is Your Parachute* by Richard Bolles and *Do What You Love — the Money Will Follow: Discovering Your Right Livelihood* by Marsha Sinetar. Both books, plus Cotham's *Career Shock*, can be ordered through Baptist Book Stores, he said. Another resource McGeehee suggested is the *World Book Encyclopedia* under "vocations."

Lackey writes for BSSB.



Well done

It was impressive. The 6th annual Faculty/Staff Recognition Day at Mississippi College raised more than one eyebrow. I was keeping a wary eye on the assembled faculty expecting any minute for one to step up and say, "Henderson, you never turned in your last book report," or "You were late for chapel four times last month." However, the sun was shining and they were kind.

Sam Gore, professor and head of the Art Department, has won tributes from Gotham City to Gore Springs. He was awarded an overhead cam, 16-valve rocking chair for 40 years of teaching. I felt good about this until I realized we were classmates.

Beatrice Patton, maintenance department, and Ralph Taylor, music professor, were given engraved watches for 36 years of ser-

vice. Nine faculty/staff personnel received engraved serving trays in the 30-34-year bracket of service. Charles Martin, vice president for academic affairs, was in this group. Eleven received \$500 saving bonds, unengraved but highly appreciated, in the 25-29 years.

In the 20-24 years category, receiving service pins, were school president Lewis Nobles, and 29 others. The certificate of service went to 43 others who have served from 15-19 years. This adds up to more years than Casey Stengel and Billy Martin stayed with the Yankees.

Longevity speaks well of an educational institution. The commitment to values and the dedication to service is admirable. "Render therefore to all their dues; tribute to whom tribute is due...honor to whom honor" (Rom. 13:7). — GH

Many pastors and church leaders have yearned for some good attractive materials to use in training new church members. I believe we now have the finest available. The Master Plan for Adult Discipleship gives us a preview. For new members training, the Survival Kit has to be a favorite. Basics for New Baptists and the Equipping Module are excellent. This is also made available in children's editions.

Specialized and in-depth materials are provided in doctrinal study (The Doctrine of the Bible) this year, modules, books on discipleship and serving, plus prayer study, parenting, counseling, and of course, MasterLife. Now there is little excuse to blame untrained church members on the lack of attractive materials.

The truth is, we need an added emphasis on "teaching them to observe all things" and gratefully we now have attractive materials from the Discipleship Training section of the Sunday School Board. — GH

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Fellowship meets in Texas, grapples with identity

By Greg Warner

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) — The infant Cooperative Baptist Fellowship took steps to undergird its fledgling mission effort April 30-May 2, while its leaders resisted suggestions the organization is becoming a new Baptist convention.

The Fellowship's three-day general assembly, held at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas, attracted an estimated 6,000 people to its largest session.

The one-year-old Fellowship is an outgrowth of the dissatisfaction moderate-conservatives have expressed over the current direction of the Southern Baptist Convention, which since 1979 has been controlled by fundamental-conservatives.

Although many of the Fellowship speakers addressed the e-

merging identity of the organization, the primary focus of the meeting was on missions, which Fellowship leaders hope will become a rallying cry to attract disgruntled Southern Baptists to the Fellowship.

To support the organization's recent decision to launch an aggressive missions program in Europe, Fellowship participants:

- adopted a statement to guide its global-missions program, approved an annual offering to fund missions, heard reports on mission projects already funded, and welcomed its first four "missioners" — former Southern Baptist missionaries John David and Jo Ann Hopper of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and Charles and Kathie Thomas of Romania.

— endorsed a five-point state-

ment of principles for mission "partnership" — drafted by European Baptists but rejected by the SBC Foreign Mission Board — which is expected to open the door for the Fellowship to send missionaries to Europe at a time when Southern Baptist missionaries are increasingly unwelcome.

— heard a prediction that the Fellowship's three "giving plans" will attract contributions totaling \$6.6 million in 1992, of which \$5 million will be designated for traditional Southern Baptist Convention causes and \$1.5 million spent on Fellowship projects.

— endorsed a plan to spend \$2.5 million on global missions in 1993, with the European initiative claiming half the total and the other half divided among ministries targeting urban areas, "un-

(See FELLOWSHIP on page 11)

FMB subcommittee recommends maintaining news practices

By Robert H. Dilday

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A subcommittee examining the Foreign Mission Board's news philosophy has opted to recommend no changes in current practices.

However, the panel acknowledged that a successor to President R. Keith Parks, who will retire in October, "will want to interact with trustees and staff in shaping his news philosophy," leaving the door open for possible future changes in policy or reinterpretations of current guidelines.

The FMB's longstanding news philosophy, as outlined by Parks, is a commitment to "openness, integrity, responsibility, and professionalism."

The seven-member subcommit-

tee, which met April 27-28 in Richmond, is composed of FMB trustees and staff. It was appointed by communications committee chairman John P. Greene during the board's April meeting in Clemson, S.C., to study concerns by some trustees at how board staff have handled recent controversial events.

Although trustee scrutiny of FMB press operations is not new, it has increased following the board's elimination last October of budgeted funds for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, which angered many Southern Baptists.

Some trustees have maintained negative reaction could have been

avoided if press reports had included additional information about the Swiss school and its past relationship to the FMB.

In particular, trustees have expressed dissatisfaction with a Jan. 7 news conference held in the board's chapel to announce the resignations of two senior staff members.

In the conference, Isam Ballenger, vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, and Keith Parker, area director for Europe, charged the Ruschlikon affair indicated a change in mission strategy for the board and accused trustees of pursuing a "fundamentalist" agenda overseas.

(See FMB on page 11)

New strategy to "reclaim" SBC targets laypeople, committees

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) — The struggle for control of the Southern Baptist Convention, thought by many to be over, may instead take a new direction — one that leads straight to the SBC's 38,000 local churches.

A group of SBC moderate-conservatives is hoping that a series of pamphlets aimed at Baptist laypeople will inspire a grass-roots movement to "reclaim" the Southern Baptist Convention from its new "fundamentalist" leaders.

The group, led by Houston millionaire John Baugh, has formed a new organization called Southern Baptist Denominational Relations Information Inc., chartered in Tennessee. Baugh has scheduled a press conference for May 1 in Fort Worth, Texas, to unveil details of the new strategy.

"Largely, laypeople neither understand the causes (of) or possible solutions available to end the ungodly conflict that is wracking their denomination," Baugh wrote

in an April 22 letter announcing the organization.

The idea is to capitalize on the trend among churches toward establishing denominational relations committees, which usually are responsible for leading a church to decide how it will participate in — and fund — denominational endeavors.

To convince churches not to support current SBC leaders, the organization will distribute a series of simple, brief pamphlets that Baugh

Youth Night is scheduled

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night will be observed Friday, July 24, 7 p.m., in the Coliseum in Jackson.



Millwood

It is located on the Fairgrounds and plenty of parking is available. This is the largest gathering of Baptists in our state and the crowd ranges from 8,000 to 12,000.

The program will include

Paul and Nicole Johnson using a mixture of comedy and drama to reach young people. The music will be provided by "4-Him," talented Christian musicians able to

communicate excitement and faith. Jack Millwood, pastor of First Church, North Mobile, Saraland, Ala., will be the speaker.



Paul and Nicole Johnson



4Him

Ruschlikon president resigns as missionary

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — John David Hopper has resigned as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary but will remain as president of the controversial Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Hopper and his wife, Jo Ann, ended their active service April 30, according to an announcement by

Winston Crawley, the board's interim vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Crawley said the Hoppers, 27-year veterans of missions, will be paid through May 31, when their terminal leave ends.

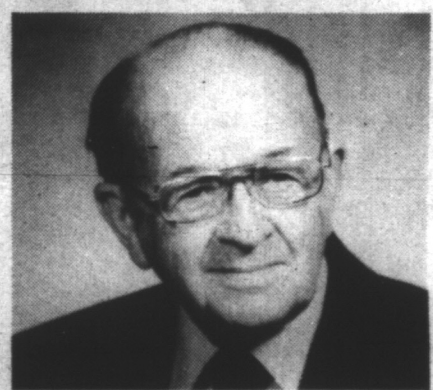
The seminary, founded by Southern Baptists in 1949 and now

Howard E. Spell dies at 89

Howard E. Spell, 89, died May 4 in Clinton. Spell was a Bible professor at Mississippi College from 1941-73, and academic dean, 1947-69. He first joined the MC faculty as Spanish instructor in 1927. While at MC, he signed over 7,000 diplomas.

Services were held May 6 at First, Clinton. The family requests that memorials be sent to the Howard E. Spell Lectureship Fund at MC.

Spell is survived by his wife, the former Josephine Trotter, and son William H. Spell of Baton Rouge.



Howard E. Spell

says will show the damaging effects of a decade of "fundamentalist" control of the Southern Baptist Convention and will advise churches on what they can do to reverse the direction.

Patrick Anderson, a Florida layman involved in the new organization, said the group's efforts "will in very simple terms express to Baptist laypeople the changes that have occurred in the denomination — and they are dramatic changes, but they are only felt by people

intimately aware of Baptist heritage and history.

"To me it's a simple calculus," Anderson continued. "If laypeople understand what has taken place, then they will understand that the denomination has been stolen. The more laypeople we inform, the more likely it is that the pendulum can be nudged in the other direction."

Included in the strategy are plans for several hundred pamphlets, each

(See PAMPHLETS on page 11)

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION SALUTES

Clarke College: a faithful servant

By Jim Read

Eighty-five years ago (1907) east Mississippi Baptists met to formulate plans to make their dream a reality. That dream was to create a Baptist college in east central Mississippi where the young people of the area could attend. In September 1908, their dream became a reality, with the opening of Clarke Memorial College at Newton, Mississippi, by the General Association of Baptists of East Mississippi. The college was named for Nathan Clarke, a prominent Baptist pastor in the area. The charter of incorporation of 1908 stated that the educational purpose of Clarke Memorial College was, "To carry on and conduct a Christian co-educational institution for the youth of the country, to be owned by the Baptists of East Mississippi."

In 1914, after six years of struggling to keep the independent four-year Baptist college open with insufficient financial resources, they voted to turn Clarke Memorial College over to the Mississippi Baptist Convention to operate. By 1919 Clarke had become a two year (junior) college, whose purpose was to be a feeder institution for the Baptist senior colleges of Mississippi. Since that time Clarke has been operated under the authority of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, except for one brief period from 1931 to 1945.

In 1931, a special session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, meeting on the Clarke College campus, voted to close Clarke College as an economy measure, because of the financial difficulties of the convention brought about by the Great Depression. But area Baptists in east central Mississippi arranged to lease the property from the Mississippi Baptist Convention. From 1931 to 1945 this group of concerned Baptists, through the Clarke College Holding Commission, operated Clarke Memorial College during the lean years of the Great Depression and World War II. The late A. A. Roebuck, president, 1931-32, recalled that during the year he was president, "Whatever funds were available were given to employees in a per-

centage basis, namely what was the percent of one's salary of the total payroll." He also pointed out that year that, since they had no football team, the college plowed up the football field and planted peas, which was a "very helpful thing to students with families." The late Freeman May, who served as president in 1940-41, recalled that one cold Sunday morning, when it was snowing, the college ran out of wooden slabs that afternoon for the boiler, but that he would not ask anyone to help him, "since it was the Sabbath." He recalled that, "practically every student," came to help him that afternoon.

In 1945, at the beginning of the administration of W. E. Greene, Clarke College came back under control of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, as the World War II veterans began to return home, armed with their "G.I. Bill of Rights" which gave many of them the opportunity to return to school or college. In 1952 Greene led the college into the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, while enrollment at Clarke continued to grow.

In 1955 W. L. Compere became president of Clarke College, beginning the longest tenure of any president of Clarke College (1955-1977). Under President Compere, the Sanders Memorial Library, women's dormitory, science building, and Lott Fine Arts Building were constructed, to join the Administrative Center, Cockrell Gymnasium, and the men's dormitory constructed during the Greene presidency. During the Compere administration the tradition of giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions was started at Clarke College. According to former B.S.U. director J. B. Costilow, nearly \$80,000 was donated to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering between 1956 and 1990. Costilow recalls how he saw students year after year give sacrificially and then cry because they had no more to give.

In 1980 the Clarke College Board of Trustees, after years of decreasing enrollment and what

had become nearly an annual operating fund deficit, voted to merge Clarke College with her sister institution, Mississippi College. The Education Commission and the Convention Board of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and Mississippi College agreed to the idea, as did the messengers to the annual Mississippi Baptist Convention in November 1980. In August 1981, Clarke College began to operate as Clarke College: A Division of Mississippi College, coming under the administrative and financial supervision of Mississippi College's administration and board of trustees.

Clarke College's years (1982-92) under Mississippi College have been years of struggle with reduced convention support (1984-90) due to a change in the funding formula used to allocate convention funds, decreasing enrollment, and a worsening relationship with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (S.A.C.S.) that eventually led to Clarke College being dropped from S.A.C.S. membership in December 1990. In April 1991, that initial decision by the Commission on Colleges was affirmed by the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Colleges of S.A.C.S. During the 1991-92 academic year Clarke College has operated without S.A.C.S. accreditation, utilizing bilateral agreements with sixteen other colleges to insure that students would have places that would accept credits they earned at Clarke College during the 1991-92 academic year and using alternative sources of funds for grants and loans to students to replace a portion of the federal student financial aid that Clarke lost when it lost its regional accreditation. In March 1992, faced with no progress in restoring Clarke's relationship with the Southern Association, and with a deteriorating financial situation mainly due to the loss of regional accreditation, the Board of Trustees made the difficult decision to cease to offer courses on the Clarke College campus at the end of the current spring semester.

Clarke College's legacy

WHAT KIND OF A LEGACY DOES CLARKE COLLEGE LEAVE TO MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS? First, Clarke College leaves approximately 3,000 alumni who have left Clarke College to make their marks on our state, our nation, our world, and our denomination. It leaves over 700 pastors faithfully serving Southern Baptist churches all over our nation, and it leaves over 80 missionaries, who have carried the "Good News" to the most remote parts of our world. Among its alumni are prominent leaders of the Mississippi Baptist Convention such as Jim Futral, Eddie Hamilton, and others. Among its alumni are leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention such as Terry Williams. Clarke College has also had an impact on our Southern Baptist seminaries through such men as J. Hardee Kennedy, Kelva Moore, and James Reid. Most of all, Clarke College leaves a legacy of thousands of committed Christians who were educated, inspired, and even called at Clarke College, who have served the Lord all over our world as informed, involved laity and clergy, cognizant of the fact that the Lord's call to salvation is also a call to service. Clarke also leaves as a legacy the example of how the Lord can do great things with little things, if we entrust them to him, allowing his power and his direction to make these little things great things in his kingdom's work.

You are invited

You are invited to a very special homecoming on the Clarke College campus on Saturday, May 9. The theme of this homecoming, **FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT-FINISHED THE COURSE**, is designed to point out that Clarke College's ministry will continue through the thousands of alumni who have been both educated and inspired at Clarke College over the last 84 years.

Read is academic dean, Clarke College.



KEEPING FAMILY TOGETHER — Albino Pantin, a Baptist pastor in the town of Waspam in northeastern Nicaragua, holds his 3-year-old grandson, Gilberto Centeno. The child's father was an Indian resistance fighter with the Contras who was killed in Nicaragua's civil war. During the war years, the Miskito people suffered relocation, destruction of villages and crops, and the death and injury of many family members and friends. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

Court hears arguments on abortion

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments April 22 in a case that could be used to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the Court's landmark 1973 decision which established abortion on demand as a fundamental right.

The case, *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, involves a law passed by the Pennsylvania state legislature. While the law does not forbid abortions, it places restriction on the practice, such as parental consent for minors, informed consent for adults, and spousal notification for married women seeking abortions.

Burke Balch, state legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, attended oral arguments in the case. He said that while the questioning of the justices is often misleading, his impression was that the justices were seeking a way to uphold the Pennsylvania law as a modest restriction on abortion, rather than generally advocating an end to *Roe*. "The questioning focused more on the specifics of the statute," he said. "But there were some questions that were more broadly directed."

Because the Pennsylvania law has not yet gone into effect, Planned Parenthood must demonstrate that it is unconstitutional "on its face," and that there are no conditions under which the law could pass constitutional muster.

Pennsylvania argues that it has a compelling state interest in regulating

abortion. The Justice Department agrees. Solicitor General Kenneth Starr, representing the Bush administration, told the Court in a brief, "The protection of human life — in or out of the womb — is certainly the most compelling interest that a state can advance . . . In our view, a state's interest in protecting fetal life throughout pregnancy, as a general rule, outweigh a woman's liberty interest in an abortion."

Which interests are paramount depends on just what kind of "right" the right to abortion is. As a "fundamental right," the right to abortion has enjoyed protection from all but the most compelling state interests. But if the Court downgrades the right to abortion to a lower level, further government restrictions — and even outright bans — are likely to be permitted, provided the government can show a rational basis for such laws.

The Court took a step in that direction in the 1989 *Webster* case, in which it held that the state has a compelling interest in the fetus throughout pregnancy. Many observers say that decision spelled the beginning of the end for *Roe*. The Rev. Keith Tucci of Operation Rescue says, "The Pennsylvania case is the final nail in the coffin of the death industry in America."

Changes in the makeup of the Supreme Court may have created the majority needed to overturn *Roe*. Though Justices David Souter and

Clarence Thomas have not publicly stated their views on *Roe*, they are expected to be more likely to approve of state regulation of abortion than were their predecessors, Justice William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall, both abortion supporters.

Presently, only Justices John Paul Stevens, 72, and Harry Blackmun, 83, are considered to be solid advocates of legal abortion. Chief Justice William Rehnquist dissented from *Roe* and still opposes abortion. Antonin Scalia is said to be anxious to overturn *Roe*. Byron White has long opposed *Roe*. Anthony Kennedy sided with Rehnquist in a 1989 case narrowing legal abortion, and Sandra Day O'Connor has sought a compromise on the issue.

While many are expecting a significant decision, Robert K. Skolrood, executive director of the National Legal Foundation, notes that the Court has options. "They can decide (the Pennsylvania case) without addressing *Roe*," he explains. "Or they could address *Roe*. But I don't think they'll do that. I don't think Scalia and Kennedy are willing to sit back any more."

Skolrood adds, "I'd like to see them overturn *Roe v. Wade*. That won't end abortion — it will send it back to the states and then our job is in each of the state legislatures. Abortion is not a fundamental right; it's not even mentioned in the Constitution."

A decision is expected in late June or early July.

Evelyn Keyes retires

Evelyn Keyes, the Baptist Record's advertising manager, has announced that she will retire, effective June 1. Her days on the paper's staff began 26 years ago, May 25, 1966, or through 1,300 issues. A reception in her honor is to be held at the Baptist Building May 14.

"Life has many doors which we have to pass through," she said as she thought of events that led to this moment. "Since I graduated from high school" (at Sandersville, with 13 in her class), "many doors have opened for me. One opened to my first job, sewing at a garment factory in Laurel" (where she was born, daughter of Mary Louise and Robert Howard Keyes and lived until fifth grade).

"That door closed. The Lord opened another, to Clarke College." This one opened soon after her becoming a Christian at age 20, an event that changed the course of her life toward a church-related career.

"Another door opened," she remembers, "and I went to work for an oil company and as part-time music director at Sandersville Church," (one of her favorite, often chosen songs was "Because He Lives"). When that door closed, yet another opened, and she became a church secretary (at Wildwood and Magnolia Street churches in Laurel and in Bossier City, La.).

Another door opened, for her to work at University Hospital, Jackson. "I never used the dictionary so much!" she said. (Rating 1 to 10, she'd make a 10 in spelling, but this job was typing autopsy reports.) However, that door quickly closed, and Evelyn entered a door opening to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. First, she was secretary to Joe Abrams, associate editor, Baptist Record, and then to editors Joe Odle and Don McGregor before being promoted to advertising manager. Advertising receipts for the Baptist Record last year totaled \$207,926.56. Thirty-one churches and associations use BR special pages for their news.

Now that door is about to close and another is opening — to retirement days.

With her wide variety of interests,

including flea markets, she's excited about all she's planning to do: "First, I want to rest. Then I want to sew, do needlework, quilt, make dolls, paint on gifts and ceramics, work in the garden, dig in the flower beds, travel, sleep late, clean floors, paint the inside of the house, organize files . . . I want to smell the roses and listen to the birds sing!"

At Oak Forest Church, Jackson, she will continue to work with third grade children in Sunday School, which she has done for years. No telling the measure of influence on those many, many children. One of her former pupils, now a public school teacher, said she is using teaching techniques learned in third grade from Evelyn.

Though Evelyn said if she were stranded on a desert island, she'd most like to be stranded with "a handsome man," she has never married. She lives in south Jackson with her sister Peggy. Another sister lives in Jackson, one in Pascagoula, and her brother lives in Montgomery. Also she lavishes a lot of love on two nieces, one nephew, two great-nephews, and one great-niece.

I'll never forget how impressed we all were with her efficiency when she arrived at the Baptist Record and within a matter of days reorganized all the files. Her artistic bent placed her in the slot of display window decorator and oftentimes decorator for office parties. In the past year or so she has edited an employees' newsletter, "Bits and Pieces."

She's a fix-it person. If anything mechanical ever goes wrong in my office, I yell for Evelyn. Her plans to take a course in auto mechanics never did materialize, but she knows a lot about her car and how to keep it in top condition.

A night person with a green thumb, she's likely to be out gardening at most any odd hour. One night she took her flashlight and went out to check on a plant. "I hadn't seen it lately," she said.

Every room in my house contains a plant that she gave me or a gift that she made with her hands; she's one friend who won't be easy to forget.

Her philosophy, "Don't cry. Laugh a lot. I'd rather laugh than cry," fits



Evelyn Keyes

well with her favorite Scripture, Philippians 4:13 — "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Straightforward, decisive, friendly, helpful, fun-loving, witty, compassionate, kind, she strives toward doing her best in whatever she does. Probably what she hates most is insincerity. "Be myself" is her policy.

She told me that as she was on her way home Monday afternoon, she heard a radio announcer say, "We have just heard the song, 'He Made Something Beautiful of My Life.'" "And I thought," she said, "those are the words about my life because God made something beautiful, something good of my life. And I thank him!"

Happy retirement, Evelyn! May all the new doors opening to you take you to vistas of beauty!

Thursday, May 7, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

My friend my mother

Often I mention that some friend has been an encourager to me. My greatest encourager, unflagging and never-failing, has been my mother.

Her hands molded the cookie dough, rolled and cut it, and when it was baked, iced it with chocolate. Then they placed the cookies in my little pink lunchbox to add to the joy of my first day of school.

Her arms reached out to hug me that midweek morning of my ninth summer when I came home from revival meeting to report, "I accepted Jesus as my Savior today."

Her hands again and again spread the remnants of fabric on the bed and placed the patterns on them, turning them this way and that for least waste of material. Her fingers fashioned for me dresses, skirts, evening gowns, pinafores, even once a bathing suit.

Her sympathy comforted me in the down spots of my roller coaster teen years.

Her contagious interest in missions infected me. Her zeal in Woman's Missionary Union sent me to GA, which gave me the initial impetus to apply for WMU scholarships at a Baptist college and then to seek a career in religious journalism.

Her eyes are perhaps the only ones

that have read every line I ever wrote for publication.

Her prayers have supported me through disappointments and severe illnesses, through the heartache of my childlessness, through times of financial difficulty, and have praised the Lord with me in times of deliverance and rejoicing. Her prayers have gone with me in my travels, despite her wish that I would not ride so often on those planes.

Her slender fingers have guided a pen over many a sheet of stationery. She has written me a letter at least once a week since I left home at age 17. (Now I'm 63. How many letters is that?) She kept me abreast of what was going on at her house and expressed an interest in what was going on at mine. Just last week, after I had written her of my sadness at leaving my job with the Baptist Record after 39 years, she wrote, "God may have something else for you to do; he has always directed your path in so many ways before."

For what I am and stand for, for whatever degree of success I may have attained, I must say thank you to my friend my mother.

Happy Mother's Day, Mama!

684 will receive degrees from MC

Commencement exercises for the largest graduating class in Mississippi College history are scheduled for May 16, on campus with Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary, as the featured speaker.

There are 684 candidates for degrees during the ceremonies that

will close out the 166th academic year. The exercises are scheduled for 2 p.m. in the A. E. Wood Coliseum. The 684 graduates eclipse the old record high of 651 established last year.

A breakdown of the 684 candidates reveals 478 will be receiving undergraduate degrees, 116 the doctor of jurisprudence from the School of Law, and 90 will be awarded graduate degrees.

In addition to the regular diplomas to be awarded, three prominent alumni will be receiving honorary doctorate degrees. Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., will receive the Doctor of Divinity; Farno L. Green of Ruth, retired senior research physicist at General Motors Research Laboratories, will be presented the Doctor of Science degree; while Bernard J. Ebberts of Brookhaven, president and chief executive officer of LDDS in Jackson, will be awarded the Doctor of Laws degree. They all received undergraduate degrees in 1963,

1941, and 1967 respectively.

Lewis Nobles, president of Mississippi College, will be presiding over the program and officially confer the degrees.

Nobles will also be giving out several academic awards, including the D. M. Nelson Award which honors a longtime president and goes to the undergraduate who finishes with the highest academic average in four years of study at the College. The Dr. W. O. Sadler Award will be presented to the transfer student who graduates with the highest academic average. Sadler was professor of biological sciences at Mississippi College from 1932-1972 and is now retired and living in Clinton.

Giving the invocation at commencement will be Paul Griffin Jones, II, of Clinton, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission; while the Bruce Cappleman, pastor of Griffith Memorial Church in Jackson, will pronounce the benediction. Both have sons among the graduates.

Zimbabwe on my mind

By Johnny Walker

God uses events, relationships, people, places, and in many other ways, he makes lasting impressions on our minds and hearts. Paul was expressing this when he wrote, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:3-6).

A recent trip with nine others, to be involved in revivals and other evangelistic work in the country of Zimbabwe, has been used by God to continue a work in my life. For this reason the people and mission work in the African country are on my mind.

Zimbabwe, formerly Southern Rhodesia, is a country of 150,803 square miles or about the size of California. With a population of 10 million, 97 percent are black Africans and two percent are white.

A controversial discussion by the democratic parliament will probably create a great conflict within the country. By vote of parliament, much of the white-owned land will be purchased for redistribution to black

peasants. Other problems President Mugabe and the country struggle with are poverty, education, health services, and this year's severe drought. A paragraph from a letter of one of the pastors of Zimbabwe gives some insight to the needs and the desire in his heart for the people of his country: "People are in a desperate situation here because of the drought. It's not easy to find a bag of meal and if one manages to find some, will probably buy it at almost twice its original price. Sugar and other food staples are not easy to find and almost doubled in price. The food prices just rise INSTANTLY! People are finding it difficult to make ends meet. Most people are struggling in order to make a living. Let's join in prayer that this desperate situation may turn the lost souls to the Lord and that the saved souls may not run away from the Lord."

Mississippi Baptists are involved in a partnership with the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe. The first phase of this partnership is evangelistic efforts. The missionaries, national pastors, and church members recognize the great need for evangelism. Through personal witnessing, the printed word (we have a very effective publishing house in Bulawayo),

planting churches, revivals, and in other ways the evangelistic challenge is being met.

When you pray I trust the Lord will bring these specific needs to your mind and heart.

Johnny Walker is pastor, First Church, Winona.

Manual typewriters are needed for Zimbabwe

A request has come from Zimbabwe for some used manual typewriters in good condition, according to Bill Hardy, coordinator, Mississippi-Zimbabwe Partnership. These can be used at the seminary and with pastors. Portable manuals can also be used.

It is important that each machine be in good working order with good ribbons and ready for service. They may be left at the Baptist Building for the Zimbabwe Partnership, or shipped to Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

The typewriters will be delivered by project volunteers in checked luggage.

Mississippi ACTS affiliates honored

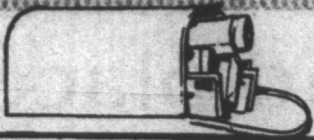
FORT WORTH, Texas — Three Mississippi ACTS affiliates were honored at the seventh annual American Christian Television System Awards ceremony held at Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, Tex., April 23.

Anderson Productions, of Jackson, Miss., received recognition in the category of Human Interest Special for independent producer Ken Anderson's program The MVP Spirit, produced for ACTS of Jackson, according to Deborah Little, national marketing director for ACTS.

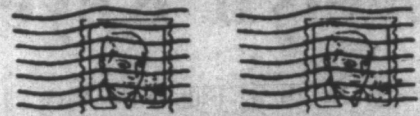
ACTS of Laurel was honored in the

category of Event Coverage (Series) for Football 1991, a series of high school football games featuring area teams and ACTS of Mississippi received Religious Special honors for its program If You Love Me . . .

OOPS: First Church, Madison, James Richardson, pastor, was left out of the ACTS nomination awards story in last week's BAPTIST RECORD. The church was nominated and was a finalist in the category of Musical or Dramatic Special for its production, "Christmas is Calling You Home." We regret the oversight. — GH



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Where from here?

Editor:

At a press conference immediately after being elected president of the SBC, Morris Chapman stated, among other things, that he does not favor a wholesale house cleaning, but in the appointment of committees he will appoint only those who believe in perpetuation of allegiance to the perfect Word of God.

Continuing, Chapman said he wanted "to enhance the cooperative spirit among Southern Baptists while standing on biblical truth, as to doctrinal integrity, we need to come home to the faith of our fathers."

Inerrancy, infallible, literal, perfect, etc., seem to be the buzz words of the fundamentalists and are applied to various subjects such as history, science, economics, mathematics, etc.

At this time it might be helpful to study or reread Chapter 2 of the "Baptist Faith and Message," authored by Herschel Hobbs who headed up a committee of 23 presidents of state conventions (our own Douglas Hudgins being in that number) and was adopted by the SBC in 1962. "The Bible lays no claim to being a textbook of history, literature, philosophy, psychology, or science, yet it contains true elements of all these and more. It is not designed as an encyclopedia containing answers to all of man's questions. Yet it answers the vital and ultimate inquiries of the heart, mind, and spirit. It may not tell man all he wants to know, but does tell him all he needs to know."

(See page 30, paragraph 1: To say that the Bible is an authoritative book does not mean that it is authoritative in science.) "The Bible then is a book of religion, not of science."

According to the media, Dan Vestal, defeated candidate for president of SBC, made an appeal for a formal dialogue between moderates and conservatives on the future of Southern Baptists, at which time he specifically appealed to Chapman and former presidents for the past 12 years, who now control the denomination, "to broaden the tent of involvement" in the SBC as they have publicly suggested.

He also urged trustees of SBC agencies to "stop publicly embarrassing these good and godly men and accept us as brothers and sisters, and stop accusing us of not believing the Bible, just because we don't agree on the interpretation of Scripture."

Continuing, Vestal said he and others have called for a return to the priesthood of the believer, congregational polity, cooperative

missions, religious liberty, separation of church and state, and unity in diversity.

Responding to the question "Where do we go from here?" he said, "The present leadership could maintain its present rigid posture and some churches would leave the SBC and affiliate with other Baptist organizations, and also it could moderate enough to bring us back together by balancing the appointments to SBC committees and boards and change the way in which they support cooperative budgets."

Marvin Taylor
Hamilton

Action needed

Editor:

In response to the letter "Deadly Virus" of the April 9 edition of the Baptist Record by Chauncey Daley: First of all, I want to credit the editor for printing this, and Daley for writing it.

It would appear that so much has been swept under the carpet that walking on it is becoming difficult. More and more it becomes obvious that our Southern Baptist "spiritual leaders" have lost contact with the priorities of God. We can no longer look askance at other denominations who fell into the same trap. This lack of divine guidance, on their part, opens many more doors for the fence-sitters to bypass Sunday School, church, and prayer meetings.

God's Word makes it clear that money is not the root of all evil. It is the love of money that brings about our downfall. I find it difficult to accept that a servant of the Lord whose salary comes, in many cases, from the widow's mite, can find room in his Lincoln Town Car for both himself and his cross in order to follow a meek and lowly Jesus.

A salary of \$120,000 a year, by today's standards of football and baseball, is not out of line, but again the Word of God makes it clear that while we must live in this world, we must not allow the world to live in us. One of the best examples is Philippians 2:15: "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke, in the midst of a wicked and perverse nation among whom ye shine as lights of the world."

One last comment — it would behoove those who choose a parliamentarian for a Southern Baptist function, to check the doctrine of the Church of Christ.

Nancy Page Goldstine
Picayune

Pastor appreciated

Editor:

What does the word "church"

mean to you? A building? Or a place where people go on Sunday to sing and hear a preacher say a few words? No, church is more than that. Much more. A church is the body of Jesus Christ. Just as the physical body has many members, the spiritual body also has many members. The saved people of the world are all part of the body of Jesus. In other words, the church.

We should all assemble, each one of us, to our local building, to worship the Lord and learn about him. We should love one another, pray for one another, and look to Christ for leadership and guidance. In our physical bodies, when one of our members is hurt, we attend to that member with great care. Should it not be the same in the spiritual body? Why is it when in the spiritual body there is unconcern, indifference, or division when a member is wounded? We should lift that member up to the Lord Jesus Christ for healing and comfort.

Even the local pastor needs it at times. If your church has a pastor that will stand faithfully and proclaim the Word of God, telling people how to be saved, thank God for him. His worth is ten times his weight in gold. Everyone in the church should love him, support him, encourage him, and most of all, pray for him.

Cindy and I thank God for our pastor. He's a man among men. He preaches the Word of God, straight and true. And he would help anyone in the community any way he could, day or night. Jason Sanders, as far as we are concerned, is a true saint of God. May God richly bless you and your family, Jason.

Bob and Cindy Leach
Blue Springs

Encouraging letters

Editor:

I want to tell you of a good friend of mine who is a member of First Church, Olive Branch. He was young people's Sunday School teacher there till he felt God called him to work in New York. He left his home, took his wife and three small children, and went as God led them. None of his folks live there and none of his wife's folks, so you must realize how lonely they get. I am in Southaven Nursing Home, so I know what it is to be away from home and loved ones, but it can be made so much nicer if relatives and friends will only write us a letter regularly.

You can't know till you get away from your family and friends how much a letter can mean. If you can write Rickie and Jacky Geeslin occasionally they will appreciate it so much and you will be blessed. Send them the news of how the church work is being done in your church, what you are doing, how the weather is there, or write me. I don't care where you live in Mississippi. Tell me about the work you are doing for the

Lord in your church and how the Lord is blessing in some way.

If you know Jesus as your Savior, write and tell me about it or if you don't, write me and I will write you about his love for you that you can become his child. What I want most is to see people come to know Jesus as Savior. He died that we could be saved. Let's live that others may see Jesus in our lives and come to know him as Savior. He isn't willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

My name and address is Mrs. Thelma Casey, E3, 1730 Dorchester Drive, Southaven, MS 38671. Rev. Rickie Geeslin and family, 10 Sartoli Ave., Schenectady, NY 12303. Each of us would be glad to get letters from anyone who would write us.

Thelma Casey
Southaven

"Good versus evil"

Editor:

Having been a Southern Baptist pastor now for 20 years, I have watched with interest the controversy within our convention, which is referred to as the Conservative-Liberal struggle. Now, with the recent approval of the church in North Carolina to "bless" the union of two homosexuals, I believe light is being shown on something that I have believed all along. The real struggle is not between conservatives and liberals, but between "saved" and "lost." For years now, I have asked myself questions. "Why this struggle? Why the battle between men who call themselves brothers?"

Then in Amos 3:3, I read an interesting question, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Then I began to ask the Lord questions: "Lord, why would a man question the authority of the Bible or say it was not the Word of God?" "Lord, Why would a man question the virgin birth of Jesus or deny his resurrection?" Now I ask, "Lord, how could a person condone and allow the union of two homosexuals in one of our churches?" Then the Lord reminded me that there was a time in my own life when I tolerated sin and disbelieved the things of God.

What time was that? When I was lost. The scripture he gave me was I Corinthians 2:14: "But the natural man (man unregenerated — lost) receives not the things of God; for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." Now I can understand why people within our convention can doubt the Bible, deny the virgin birth, disbelieve the resurrection and allow such a sinful union between homosexuals. They are lost!

Billy Graham once said, "Half the people who are members of the church, need to get saved." Not all of these are sitting in the pew, some are standing in the pulpit and teaching in our schools. The struggle we are in is the same as was

from the beginning, "good versus evil, light versus darkness." The last question I have is this, "How much more are we going to allow within our convention before we call a halt?"

I'm a Southern Baptist and love the Southern Baptist work and program. Someone once asked me what I would be if I wasn't a Southern Baptist. I told that person "I'd be ashamed of myself, that's what I'd be." The scripture is plain when it comes to dealing with open, flaunting, shameless sin in the camp, "put away from yourselves that wicked person." (I Cor. 5:13). If we, as a convention, allow this sinful act to remain a part of us, I will have no other choice than to leave the fellowship of the convention, which I love and have served these many years.

Donnie Guy
Long Beach

Adolescent suicide

Editor:

On Friday, April 3, I had the opportunity to present a paper and overview a church-based adolescent suicide prevention workshop at the annual meeting of the American Association of Suicidology in Chicago, Ill. My paper was entitled, "The Church and Adolescent Suicide Prevention."

In my presentation I discussed the need to implement adolescent suicide prevention workshops for parents, youth workers, and youth. Following the presentation I was encouraged to hear words from participants of our denomination as well as other denominations supporting the fact that the church must speak out on this issue.

I sat through numerous presentations from experts of various respected fields discussing how we might prevent suicide and intervene when there is a suicide. Answers are not easy for such an ambiguous and complex act. What is known and generally accepted is that suicide is the leading cause of unnecessary deaths among adolescents.

Our churches are geared now more than ever before in purposely planning to meet the needs of our hurting youths and families. I find encouragement in the fact that our Sunday School Board and other SBC agencies are actively confronting tough issues in their curricula and other materials.

I am convinced that the only real hope to end this epidemic is for our youths to know they are loved and cared for by significant adults in the church and to experience God's personal love through Jesus Christ. This is truly prevention of the highest quality.

(If I can be of help to any reader or church interested in knowing how they can offer a church-based approach to adolescent suicide prevention, then please call me at 504-282-4455.)

Jerry W. Pounds, director
Continuing Education
New Orleans Seminary

Fought the Good Fight --- ---Finished the Course

CLARKE COLLEGE A Division of Mississippi College Newton, MS

Eighty-five years ago east Mississippi Baptists had a dream. That dream was to create a Baptist college in east central Mississippi where young people of the area could attend. The dream came to life in September, 1908, with the opening of Clarke Memorial College.

In 1914, Clarke was turned over to the Mississippi Baptist Convention and has operated under the control of the MBC ever since, except for the period 1931 to 1945. In 1980 the Clarke Board of Trustees voted to merge the school with its sister institution, Mississippi College. With the blessings of the Education Commission and the Convention Board, this recommendation of the Clarke trustees was approved by the messengers to the MBC in November, 1980, and the Newton campus became a division of MC in 1981.

The Education Commission is proud of what has been accomplished through the 73 years Clarke served as a separate entity and the 12 years Mississippi College has had it under its wing. Mississippi Baptists can swell with pride knowing that they have had a hand in turning out many a leader for church and state.

It has been announced that Clarke College will close its doors following May graduation. Although the doors of buildings will be closed, the doors of service and Christian witness of Clarke alumni will continue to be open for years to come.

Clarke College leaves a real legacy for Mississippi Baptists. There are some 3,000 alumni who have, or will, make their mark on our state, our nation, our world, and our denomination. There are over 700 pastors faithfully serving

Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation and over 80 missionaries who have carried the "Good News" to the most remote parts of the world.



The Education Commission feels that Clarke also leaves as its legacy the example of how the Lord can do great things with little things if we just entrust them to Him. The Commission publicly extends a big "THANK YOU" to all present and past administration, faculty, staff and students of both Clarke and Mississippi College for their dedication that has resulted in bringing Christian higher education to the forefront of Mississippi Baptist life.

Like the Apostle Paul, we can take pride in the fact that "we have fought a good fight; we have finished the course," at Clarke. Let all Baptists now join together as we continue to move forward in educating the young minds of this state in an atmosphere of Christian love.

**You are invited to
HOMECOMING, MAY 9, 1992
9 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.
Newton Campus**

**This advertisement sponsored by the
EDUCATION COMMISSION
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION.**

capsules

BERLIN WALL SEGMENT INSTALLED NEAR CHRIST OF OZARKS STATUE: EUREKA SPRINGS, Ark. — Visitors to this historic Ozark community will be able to see a 10-foot section of the Berlin Wall which was unveiled recently in a ceremony on the grounds of The Great Passion Play. The unveiling was sponsored by the Elma M. Smith Foundation, producer of The Great Passion Play. Foundation Chief Operating Officer Bob Foster said that the foundation was able to secure a portion of the Berlin Wall of particular interest to the Foundation and The Great Passion Play. Inscribed in German on the wall segment is a passage from Psalm 23: "Though I walk through the valley of death, I will be not afraid." The Berlin Wall was constructed in 1961 of bricks and barbed wire. By 1970, uniform steel and reinforced concrete replaced the brick and the Wall increased in height from six to ten feet. Approximately 200 escape-related deaths were reported during the Berlin Wall's 28-year history. The Wall crumbled on Nov. 9, 1989 with the demise of communism in what was formerly East Germany. The segment installed on the grounds of The Great Passion Play was shipped from Germany to the Port of Houston, and from there delivered to Eureka Springs by truck. It is positioned near the Church In The Grove at the entrance to the Christ of the Ozarks statue.

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION WOULD DESIGNATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY: WASHINGTON (ABP) — A resolution recently introduced in both chambers of Congress would designate Jan. 16, 1993, as "Religious Freedom Day." At a March 31 press conference, Rep. Thomas Bliley, R-Va., said he introduced the resolution (H.J. Res. 457) for two reasons: "The purpose of this resolution is not only to celebrate every American's religious freedom as established in the Bill of Rights, but also to recognize the document that served as the precursor to, and the greatest influence on, the Bill of Rights — the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom." On Jan. 16, 1786, the Virginia General Assembly adopted the statute written by Thomas Jefferson. "This statute gives the natural right of religion precedence over the interests of the state, thereby completely dividing the church and state and allowing each individual to worship in a way in which he or she feels proper," Bliley said. He added, "The freedom of religion has not always existed as we are used to it today, and I believe that we need to recognize this document that changed the course of history forever."

EACH BAPTIST CHURCH INVITED TO START ANOTHER: SWANWICK, England (BWA) — Each of the 141,667 Baptist churches in the more than 200 countries represented in the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) has been invited to start, or help start, another church by the year 2000 "so that more and more people gain the opportunity of hearing the good news of God in Jesus Christ." This challenge to establish new churches, called the "Darbyshire Declaration," was given by 250 Baptists from 45 nations who attended the March 23-27 Baptist international Conference on Establishing New Churches (BICEC), convened by the Evangelism and Education Division of the BWA.

INDIVIDUALIZED CONSULTATIONS AVAILABLE TO BLACK CHURCHES: ATLANTA (BP) — Individualized consultations for black Southern Baptist churches which are not growing are now available through the Home Mission Board. "Our churches complain about being on the plateau and this is one tool to help them grow again," said Michael Cox, associate director of the HMB black church extension division. "My long-range desire is to see a group of consultants trained to provide these studies." For each study, a consultant spends two or three days at the church, talking to members about the church's history and future. Following the visit, a written report outlines the consultant's findings and suggestions. For more information or to schedule a consultation, contact Cox at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street N.W., Atlanta, Ga., 30367-5601 or (404) 898-7415.

HISPANIC BAPTISTS WILL MEET PRIOR TO INDIANAPOLIS SBC: INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Hispanic ministers will gather for fellowship and worship — and to work at establishing a Hispanic congregation in the Indianapolis area in connection with the sixth annual Hispanic Ministers Conference. More than 350 Hispanic Baptists are expected to attend the conference prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Indianapolis June 9-11, said Bob Sena, conference coordinator. The 6:30 p.m. conference Sunday, June 7, will meet at the Chapel Wood Church in Indianapolis. The meeting also will focus on spiritual preparation for an August meeting in Orlando, Fla., to launch a decade of Hispanic evangelism in the United States, Sena said. The Orlando meeting also will commemorate 500 years of Hispanic heritage and culture since Columbus traveled to the Americas, he said. Of the Southern Baptist Convention's 38,220 churches, about 2,600 are predominantly Hispanic, according to the Home Mission Board's language church extension division. According to the 1990 census, Indianapolis has more than 11,000 Hispanic residents but the area has no Baptist church where Hispanics can worship in their language, said James Abernathy, interim director of missions for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Association. An effort a year ago to establish a Hispanic congregation "just kind of fell apart," Abernathy said. "We're trying to get reorganized. We feel like we're getting things back on track."

Parks says missionary should replace him

By Robert Dilday and Greg Warner

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — The next president of the Foreign Mission Board should be a missionary, according to the man vacating the office.

Keith Parks, who will retire as FMB president in October, said a career in foreign missions — and not short-term mission experience — would be "a tremendous asset" for the new president, while a non-missionary president would receive less support for tough decisions from the FMB's 3,955 foreign missionaries.

However, only about half of the Foreign Mission Board's trustees agree with Parks about the need for a missionary president, according to the FMB's newly elected trustee chairman.

"One, you're in a position to make much more knowledgeable decisions if you've had experience on the mission field yourself," he said. "Another is that missionaries are more likely to accept unpleasant decisions if they know you've been where they've been and

you're making decisions out of a background similar to theirs."

Someone without missionary experience, Parks said, "is really going to struggle to make some decisions, and would make more wrong decisions than one might make otherwise. It will take him a lot longer to get a feel for what's going on."

Parks said he doesn't believe such experience can be obtained from brief missions trips abroad.

New trustee chairman John Jackson, pastor of First Church of Fairfield, Calif., said "probably half" of the current trustees think missionary experience is mandatory, while "another large bloc is looking for the man for his ability to lead and his missions heart."

Few of the people mentioned as possible candidates for the job have been career missionaries, however. The name mentioned most often is John Bisagno, pastor of First Church of Houston. Bisagno has not been a missionary, but he has preached evangelistic cru-

sades overseas for the FMB more than 30 times and plans trips to Russia, Romania, and India this summer.

If the FMB favors a missionary or former missionary, the person mentioned most often for the post is Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., and a past president of the SBC Pastors' Conference. Elliff was an FMB missionary in Africa.

Although early speculation about candidates has included a few current FMB administrators, several trustees have expressed their desire to look outside the agency for "new blood."

Parks also declined to comment on speculation that he may participate in the developing missions program of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or create a separate missionary-sending society on his own or with others.

Dilday writes for RELIGIOUS HERALD, Virginia; Warner is editor of ABP.

Six members of homosexual groups disrupt Easter service in Chicago

CHICAGO (BP) — Police arrested six people identified with radical homosexual groups after they allegedly tried to disrupt an Easter Sunday worship service at Armitage Baptist Church here.

The six were charged with disorderly conduct and released from custody the same day, according to police records.

Ushers spotted eight people identified with "Act Up" and "Queer Nation" as they entered the 9:30 a.m. service and Chicago police were called, said Dave Lillgren, administrative pastor at the church.

Armitage members recognized the eight as members of the radical groups from contacts during church anti-abortion protests at a nearby abortion clinic. The homosexuals also wore buttons and handed out pamphlets identifying themselves with the two groups.

"We have a weekly picket at the closest abortion mill," Lillgren

said. "So when we saw them we knew something was up."

Five minutes into pastor Charles Lyons' sermon, two of them walked to the front of the auditorium "to disrupt the preaching," according to a release from the church.

Last year, church leaders made plans for dealing with such a disruption, Lillgren said. So when Lyons saw the two coming forward, he stepped back, pointed to the band, about 75 members stood up with others following their lead, and the congregation began singing "rousing gospel songs."

Four ushers "walked very quickly down the aisle" and seized the pair before they had a chance to speak, Schustek said.

Lyons resumed his sermon and five minutes later a woman stood and blew a whistle. The congregation stood again and began to sing. By that time police had arrived and the woman and her partner

were led from the service.

One of the homosexual pamphlets accused Armitage of preaching hatred and told the church to "stop abusing gay and lesbian youth."

Lillgren responded: "It's simply not true. We give them hope because they're in bondage. ... Homosexuality is a bondage that cannot be broken without the power of the Holy Spirit."

The church has not been active opposing homosexuality outside the church, Lillgren said, but the homosexual groups apparently targeted Armitage because of its opposition to abortion.

Schustek put it another way. "They know that our ministry out there is against abortion," he said. "They see a connection. It is a moral issue we are fighting.... They're thinking, 'If you guys succeed in stopping abortion we're going to be the next ones you come after.'"

President Bush signs Horn of Africa Recovery and Food Security relief act

WASHINGTON (ABP) — President George Bush has signed a bill that is designed to alleviate hunger and promote peace in the Horn of Africa.

The Horn of Africa — the region comprising Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, and Djibouti — has an inordinate food shortage caused by recurring famines, war, drought, and human-rights violations.

Approximately 2 million people

have died in the region since 1985, and another 8 million have become refugees.

The Horn of Africa Recovery and Food Security Act (S. 985) is designed to provide immediate and long-term solutions to these chronic problems. The law promotes grass-roots development and peacekeeping efforts. The law also stipulates that aid to governments cannot be granted until countries

make progress toward peace, democracy, and human rights.

The law represents a dramatic shift in U.S. foreign policy to the region, according to Bread for the World, an anti-hunger organization. Bread for the World, one of more than 60 groups that supported the measure, led a year-long campaign to promote democratization and end military aid to the region.

Divorce — Misery or ministry?

By David P. Daves

The warm summer breeze gently blows on Jeff's face as he sits on the patio of his one-bedroom apartment reliving the events of the past eight months of his life. Each day after work he retreats to this spot and forces himself to slide into a self-induced coma. Some days are better than others, but this particular evening Jeff feels as though he is caught in a hopeless maze. His thoughts reflect a time of happiness when his house was filled with the noise of children playing, pans rattling in the kitchen as his wife cooked, and the constant flow of neighbors visiting. Today, however, there is only the noise of passing cars and the hum of the distant city life.

The telephone rings, causing the young man's thoughts to return to the present. On most occasions he simply allows the phone to ring, but this time he decides to answer. A child's quivering voice echoes through the receiver, "Daddy, I miss you." Somehow he musters enough strength to reassure his four-year-old son that everything will be all right. But, because of divorce he knows his son will be deprived of the everyday joys of his father being at home. As Jeff tells his son good-bye, a burning sensation in his stomach reminds him that the consequences of divorce stretch far beyond two people deciding to separate.

To complicate the internal struggle, Jeff is a preacher who deeply loves God. His pastor had advised him not to divorce, his friends at church had discouraged his divorce, yet it happened that his once loving relationship with his wife had ended. Because of the guilt generated, Jeff feels that there is nothing he can do for the kingdom of God, and the spiritual gift of ministry bestowed on him must lie dormant for the remainder of his life.

Jeff represents thousands in the church today. Divorce's have turned to the church for healing during a difficult time in their lives, only to find that many in the church are not quite sure exactly where a person who is divorced can fit in the building of God's kingdom. The church is comfortable in accepting the fact that a divorce can be saved; yet the idea of someone who is divorced having a church-supported ministry causes many godly preachers to be confused in what they feel the Scripture says regarding divorce. This confusion has caused many pastors to discourage the "single-again" from using the spiritual gifts that God has provided. Our churches are filled with those who, if encouraged, could be used in filling the gaps.

The question of divorce is not a twentieth century concern that has sprung from the obvious decay of the American family. Moses was confronted with this issue when he declared that a man could give his wife a "writ of divorce" (Deut. 24:1-3). The religious leaders asked Jesus "whether it was lawful

for a man to divorce his wife" (Mark 10:2). The same question rings through our churches today. With over 50% of marriages in the United States ending in divorce, many of these emotionally distraught people turn to the church only to find that they seem to be part of a misunderstanding. They come into the church hoping to find the peace of the Lord Jesus, but instead they experience isolation by the church.

The central question that seems to be asked by hundreds of divorcees is: "Can God use a person who is divorced in his ministry?"

The answer to this question is an absolute YES! However, there are limitations that must be recognized. There are consequences to any sin in our lives. Often this carries long-lasting effects that cause great anxiety. This anxiety makes us feel unworthy of ministering to

Can God use a person who is divorced...?

The answer is an absolute YES!

the body of Christ.

The truth is that God does not deny any of us the use of the spiritual gifts which he has entrusted us because of past sins in our lives. If God has blessed someone with the ability to bring people closer to him, a great injustice is done when those gifts are neglected because the bearer of those gifts is divorced.

In order for a divorcee to be an effective minister in the church, there are several steps that must be taken:

CONFESS DIVORCE AS A SIN

Divorce is a violation of one of God's most sacred institutions and must be viewed as sin regardless of the circumstances surrounding the cause. To think that divorce is anything less than sin causes the church to have justified questions as to the motives of a divorcee who desires to minister. Our message must reflect the message of the Scriptures — that marriage is permanent and should never be viewed otherwise. God's desire for any marriage is that it last, and that broken relationships be reconciled.

This message does not make the divorcee hypocritical, even though the marriage has failed. Pointing others to what the Scripture says demonstrates a heart that is genuinely concerned with providing truths based on God's desire, not our own experiences. God's will for our lives often becomes secondary to our thinking while going through a divorce. After the hurt and anger, we return to the Lord for comfort and try to resume our walk with him. Many have shared the similar story of feeling removed from God while going

through this experience. The fact that we feel so distant from God during such times only reassures us that this is a violent act against his will, thus being sin. "If we confess our sin, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins."

Confessing divorce as sin does not indicate that we are assuming the total responsibility for the marriage's failure. Confession allows us to cleanse our hearts toward God, our ex-mate, and any others who injured us during the divorce. It is at that point that we can pick up the pieces and move on with our lives.

FORGIVE YOUR EX-SPOUSE

"As we are forgiven, so must we forgive." The ability to forgive an ex-spouse holds the key to our recovery from divorce and the effectiveness of our ministry. As we confess our sins to God, he unconditionally forgives us. Jesus' command is that we forgive those who have hurt us with the same unconditional forgiveness. Because divorce carries with it deep scars, many feel that forgiveness should not apply. Often, one mate feels as though he or she was the victim in a divorce, that he/she did nothing wrong, and that there is no reason to forgive the former husband or wife. The feeling is that if they forgive their former mates, they are condoning the actions that might have taken place during the marriage.

Charles Stanley describes the process of forgiveness in his book *Forgiveness*. An injury is caused to someone through a word or deed. Because of that injury, a debt is owed to the person who was injured. Forgiveness occurs when that debt is totally cancelled. This is a powerful analogy for you, the divorcee who is striving to know the will of God in your life. You may be the victim of a divorce. You may have done all you could to make your marriage work. You may have sacrificed your own goals to make room for your husband or wife to accomplish his or hers. When your ex-spouse announced that he/she wanted out of the marriage, and that he/she did not love you any more, you were injured to a point that you felt no one could love you. If infidelity occurred in your marriage, you were deeply injured.

No one has gone through a breakup without dealing with severe injuries. You may feel that your former mate has caused you to lose your children, your job, your house, your friends, etc., and therefore that person is indebted to you. Real forgiveness begins to take place when there is full and complete cancellation of that debt. The inability to cancel the debt creates invisible walls that prevent you from having the heart of a minister.

DEVELOP A MINISTERING HEART

Developing a ministering heart requires the development of a pure

heart. Paul instructed Timothy (a single minister) that he must become a vessel of honor, prepared for every good work, a workman not to be ashamed in order for Timothy to minister to God's people (2 Tim. 2:21). These same instructions apply today as we prepare ourselves for God's work. Paul further instructed that to develop a pure heart Timothy was to "flee youthful lust, pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace..." (2 Tim. 2:22). In other words, Timothy was to closely examine himself, the doctrine he taught, and be sensitive to others' needs and desires.

The pursuit of righteousness is especially important to a divorcee because so many others are watching. There are stereotypes that must be broken before the divorcee can be viewed as a minister. Our lives must constantly reflect God's righteousness. We must be sensitive to the fact that we cannot afford to cause anyone to think our motives are anything other than pure. Often divorcees are labeled as people looking for mates. Extra precaution must be taken so that you are not viewed as someone on the prowl, but as a minister seeking to help heal broken hearts.

The person with a minister's heart takes those disappointments and not only empathizes with people, but points others to the true healer, Jesus Christ. Our focus must always remain on Jesus, the man, not on the fact that we have been hurt.

SEEK A CHURCH THAT WILL RECOGNIZE YOUR GIFTS

The issue of divorce is one that cannot be settled by argument. Many people have very definite opinions about those who are divorced and their roles in the church. Divorcees should be sensitive to those opinions and avoid stirring conflict within the body of believers. If divorce is a critical issue in your church, and you feel that your gifts of ministry are limited because of attitudes or tradition, find a church that will acknowledge you as a minister. Locate a church that will give you the opportunity to exercise your spiritual gifts, and use those gifts as frequently as possible.

God has provided spiritual gifts to be used to edify, exhort, and comfort his people (1 Cor. 14:3). These gifts are not limited to preaching and teaching. Many in our churches feel that they have no gifts of ministry because they cannot preach, teach, or sing in the choir.

A spiritual gift is anything that is done to build up, encourage, or bring the true peace of Jesus to someone's life. Divorce does not indicate that those gifts are not to be exercised. As a divorcee, you are given the opportunity to hurt with the hurting, because you have been there. There is nothing in the Scripture that indicates that Jesus cannot use your gift because you

are divorced. The message from the Scripture is that we are most available to God when we are broken, and there is no more severe brokenness than that which occurs to a person during a divorce.

Back to our friend Jeff. Jeff has basically two choices to make concerning the call of God on his life. He can choose to go to church and watch, or he can overcome the obstacles and minister. Because of the emotional strain that is associated with divorce, most elect the option to sit back and watch. And, for a while, this is the appropriate choice. Healing must occur before the divorcee is in a position to minister to anyone. The tragedy, however, is that most divorcees feel this is the only road they can travel within the walk of the church. The call of all Christians is to seek God's will for their lives and to fulfill that will. There is no peace or contentment until his will is in full motion in our lives.

The person with a minister's heart takes those disappointments and... points others to the true healer, Jesus Christ.

If God has given you an ability to minister to his people, and that gift is not exercised, a void will exist in your life and in the church. Many of our churches have a limited scope of ministry because those who possess the power to minister are sitting and watching. For the person who possesses a ministering heart the choice to sit and watch is not a realistic consideration.

Anyone who is divorced has experienced feelings just as Jeff did as he sat on his patio. Those feelings of loneliness and despair are obstacles that can prevent you from being the effective minister that God has called you to be. To know the peace of God and to fulfill his will, the divorcee must choose to overcome the obstacles and do his/her part to breathe life into God's church.

Daves is a member of Park Place Church, Brandon.



Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the April 9 issue of the Baptist Record: Attala: County Line; Humphreys: FBC, Louise; Neshoba: Antioch; Oktibbeha: Faith; Pearl River: Jackson Landing Road; Prentiss: Mount Olive; and Winston: Good Hope.

Revival dates

Antioch, Columbus: May 10-15; C. C. Burns, evangelist; services, 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Sunday; 11:45 a.m., 7 p.m. weekdays.

Immanuel, Hattiesburg: May 10-13; 7 p.m. nightly; family enrichment revival sponsored by Lamar Association; Carl Dickerson, pastor, Magnolia Church, Laurel, evangelist; Ken Hedgepeth, Hattiesburg, music; Nathan Barber is pastor of Immanuel and Louise McMahon is associational family enrichment director.

First, Florence: May 10-13; B. Gray Allison, founder and president of Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, evangelist; Mike Parks, minister of music, Green Acres Church, Tyler, Texas, formerly minister of music, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, music; Sunday services, 9 and 10:15 a.m.; night services, 7 p.m.; E. N. Sullivan, associate pastor.

Concord, Ackerman: May 10-13; Sunday services, 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kenny Goff, pastor, Trinity Church, Pearl, evangelist; John and Lisa McDaniels, Memphis, Tenn., music; Dean Cook, pastor.

Homecomings

Ramah, McCall Creek: May 10; Sunday School, 10 a.m. services, 11 a.m.; guest speaker: Pat Lofton—D.O.M. of Bayou Macon and Madison Association in Epps, La.; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; singing in the afternoon featuring The Kingdom Singers, McComb; Fred Morris, pastor.

Fellowship, Taylorsville: May 10; dinner on the grounds; John Hosey, pastor.

Senior Adult Corner



Poplar Springs Church, Itawamba, recently honored the senior citizens of the church during a Wednesday night service. They were presented tokens of appreciation and refreshments were served. Terry Paul Graham is pastor.



Pictured is the "Happiness Is" Senior Adult Choir of First Church, Raleigh. They began their spring tour and the presentation of the musical "Reflections" by Joe E. Parks, at Bay Springs Church March 17 and March 22, at First Church, Raleigh. Other presentations will be held at Lorena Church, March 29; St. Luke's Methodist in Jackson, April 1; the Senior Adult Rally at the Smith County Association Center on April 16; and Union Church, May 10. Front row, left to right, are: Ruth Kelly, Sallie Thrasher, Moselle Lee, Faye Martin, Tinie Tadlock, Louise McGraw, and Inez Blakeney; second row, Mary Thornton, Wilma Bailey, Pauline Pinkham, Lottie Hollingsworth, Alta Cole, Cora Mae Husband, Cleo Ware, Annie Glenn, and Betty Coleman; third row, Carolyn Stuart, Eleanor Idom, Elizabeth Hegwood, Billy Tadlock, Olen Tadlock, Clayton Boykin, Bill Hegwood, Willie Parker, Leslie Coleman, and Jerry Peagler, minister of music and youth. Carolyn Stuart is pianist, and Mickey Ferguson, pastor.

Re: BR deadlines

The new deadline for news articles submitted by churches and individuals is Thursday noon, the week before date of publication. This is with the exception of "Revival Dates," which can be accepted no later than Friday noon of the week before publication.

These changes are necessary because of the paper's change-over to desktop publishing.

Advertising deadline for reserving space is two weeks in advance of publication date and must be in our office ten days prior to the issue date in which this ad is to appear.

Mississippi native Tom Cox leads 50-member crusade to India

Tom Cox recently took a group of volunteer missionaries to India. This was the 11th annual crusade to India for Mr. and Mrs. Cox. The teams were made up of doctors, nurses, dentists, dental assistants, hygienists, teachers, preachers, and singers.

This crusade was historical in two ways. One, this 50-member group was the largest of Southern Baptist volunteer missionaries ever to go to India. Two, this is the first of the "Crossover India" teams to be sent to India in 1992 and 1993. "Crossover India" is a celebration of the

bicentennial of missionary work started by William Carey.

Cindy Chambers, a nurse from Meridian, was also a part of this team. She is a member of Northcrest Church. The group made up eight teams that served in states of Kerala, Bangalore, Bobbili, Kakinada, and Vishakhapatnam, all in South India.

Cox was born in Picayune. He lived most of his younger life around Hattiesburg. He attended Clarke College. He recently celebrated 20 years in evangelism and lives in Mountainburg, Ark.

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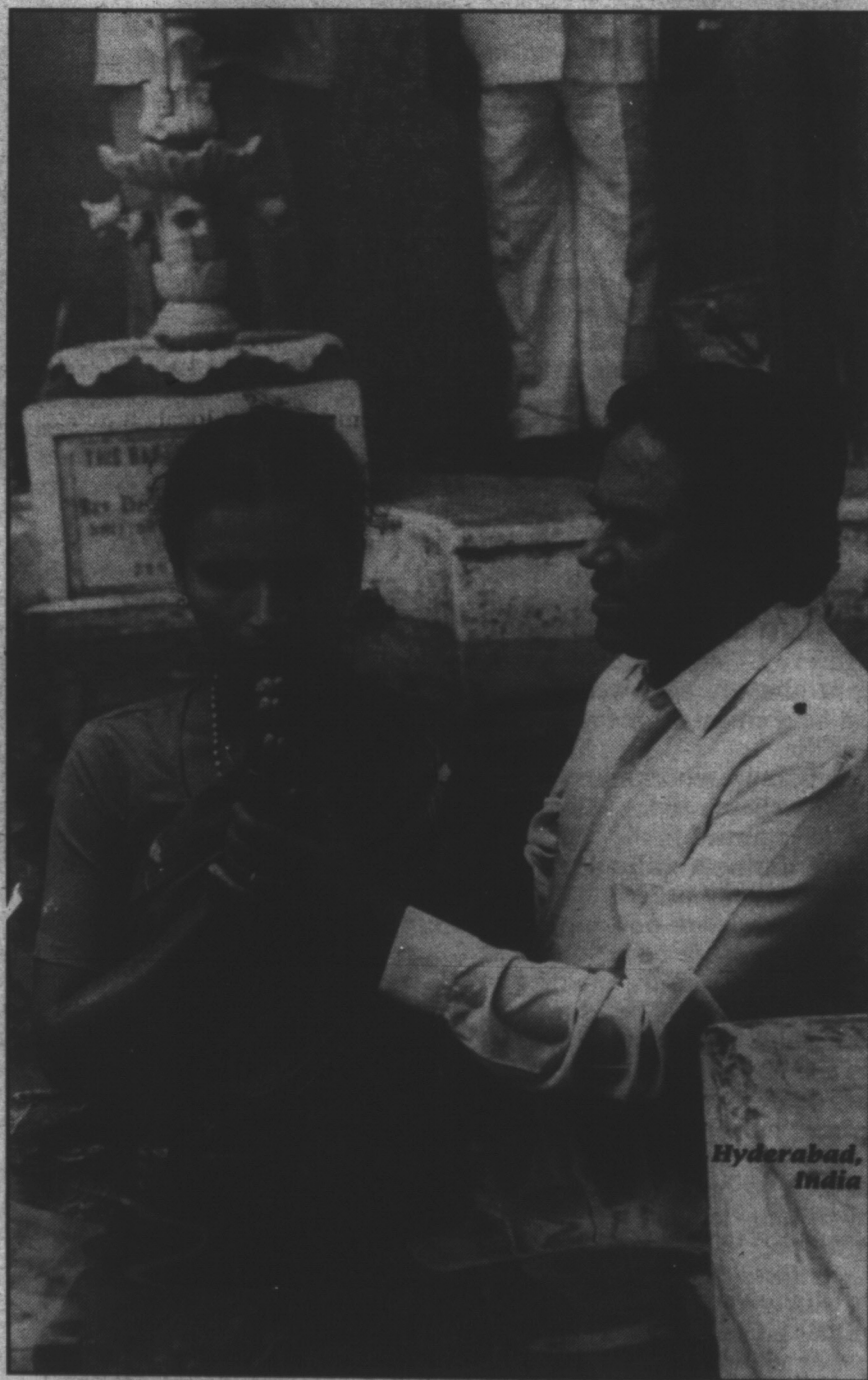
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FELLOWSHIP

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reached" people groups, internationals in the United States, and CBF administration.

— revised its "regular" or entry-level giving plan to fund not only Southern Baptist causes but Fellowship projects as well.

Fellowship leaders faced straight on the persistent question whether such definitive actions indicate the Fellowship is on its way to becoming a new convention or denomination.

"I believe this is a permanent entity," said outgoing Fellowship moderator John Hewett, pastor of First Church, Asheville, N.C.

Hewett told a news conference May 1 the Fellowship is an "enduring" organization. "Whether it will take the shape Baptists usually call a convention is yet to be revealed," said Hewett.

Hewett said talk of the Fellowship becoming a denomination is "inappropriate," since all Baptist groups are considered part of the Baptist denomination. "We are not going to be anything other than Baptist," he insisted.

Hewett said the Fellowship has no intention of recreating the structure and bureaucracy of the Southern

Baptist denomination. He added the Fellowship will continue to allow participating churches to channel money to SBC causes "as long as churches continue to want to."

Churches or individuals that send money through the Fellowship can choose one of the organization's three funding plans, two of which send some money to SBC causes, or they can design their own customized funding plans.

Approximately 950 churches contribute to the Fellowship, according to the Fellowship's finance committee. About 350 churches have the CBF in their budgets, while another 600 send designated gifts from individual church members.

Organizers of the assembly expressed pleasure with the tone of the meeting, which included large- and small-group business sessions, several worship services, 25 training institutes, and 75 topical workshops.

Unlike annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention, participants are not required to register, and neither registration nor church endorsement is required to vote at Fellowship meetings.

During a session focusing on missions, Fellowship participants

greeted Keith Parks, retiring president of the Foreign Mission Board, with an extended standing ovation. Parks announced recently he will retire earlier than planned because of philosophical differences with trustees. Although Parks has been mentioned as a candidate to head up the Fellowship's missions effort, he said he was attending the assembly as a private citizen.

In other action:

— Fellowship participants adopted a resolution confessing, repenting, and rejecting the racism that has persisted in their parent denomination for almost 150 years. The resolution was narrowly adopted despite opposition from participants who said the Fellowship should avoid adopting any resolutions at all.

— Hardy Clemmons, pastor of First Church, Greenville, S.C., was chosen moderator-elect and will serve as moderator in 1994. Patricia Ayers of Austin, Texas, who has served as moderator-elect this year, will succeed Hewett as moderator.

— Cecil Sherman, former pastor of Broadway Church, Fort Worth, was installed as the Fellowship's first coordinator. He was elected in January.

Warner is editor of ABP.

FMB

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Board members later said they were displeased the conference was held in the FMB headquarters building and no trustee was invited to respond to charges.

Following its meeting, the subcommittee studying the issues released a two-paragraph statement:

"The subcommittee on communication of news releases and press conferences has reviewed the overall news philosophy and administrative guidelines presently employed by the FMB. We will be reporting to the communications committee that we find no problems with present news philosophy and guidelines. However, we did acknowledge to Dr. Parks and staff that were present concerns with how the January press conference was handled.

"The FMB is in a period of transition. We recognize that the new president will want to interact with trustees and staff in shaping his news philosophy. Therefore, we recommend that no further action be taken at this time."

Although the subcommittee's first day's proceedings were closed to the public, representatives of Baptist Press and a local newspaper were permitted to

attend the second day.

In addition, Herb Hollinger, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee vice president for Baptist Press, met with the panel on the second day. The FMB's news and information office also functions as the Richmond bureau of BP.

"We had a good time of dialogue with staff and with Dr. Parks," subcommittee chairman Terry L. Williams said of the closed session. "We discussed the (news) philosophy we have here on the board and had a healthy time of dialogue."

Williams, pastor of First Church in Batesville, Miss., said the statement will be shared with trustees at their June 22-24 meeting in El Paso, Texas.

In addition to Williams and Greene, a businessman from West Palm Beach, Fla., other subcommittee members are trustees Michael D. Smith, an Asheville, N.C., contractor; William H. Pace Jr., a minister from Largo, Fla.; Alan Compton, vice president for communications; Irma Duke, associate vice president for communications support; and Robert L. Stanley, director of the news and information office and chief of BP's Richmond bureau.

Dilday writes for Virginia RELIGIOUS HERALD.

PAMPHLETS

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approximately 500 words in length and written by laypeople. The first 100 pamphlet titles are scheduled to appear this summer — 25 brochures a month in May, June, July, and August.

The organization already has produced its first publication, a 16-page handbook for denominational relations committees titled "Reclaiming the Heritage," which were distributed at the general assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Fort Worth April 30-May 2. According to the handbook's cover, the publication "defines the problem and offers solutions for consideration by mainline Southern Baptist laypeople."

Critical to the strategy is convincing churches to divert contributions from normal Southern Baptist funding channels, such as the Cooperative Program. "In effect, by redirecting their financial resources from one agency or organization to another, the local church can virtually starve the political machinery of the New Age Fundamentalists," the handbook says.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which offers churches funding channels to bypass the Cooperative Program, is not mentioned in the handbook or other materials. Despite the fact the handbook will be distributed and the news conference will be held during the Fellowship's general assembly, the new organization claims no relationship with the Fellowship or any "denominational endeavor."

Four laypeople are listed as contact persons for the group: Anderson, a professor of criminology from Lakeland, Fla.; Baugh; Randall Fields, an attorney from San Antonio, Texas; and George McCotter, a businessman from Lillington, N.C.

A fact sheet distributed by Baugh indicates that the organization's founding directors — as yet unnamed — will include six to eight laypeople in each state. They will enlist state-level "Baptist Leadership Boards" to help form and inform denominational relations committees in local churches.

Southern Baptist Denominational Relations Information Inc. promises to conduct no fund-raising, instead relying on the low-cost pamphlets to pay for themselves. The organization, which has acquired a Nashville post office box, will have no employees; all work will be done by volunteers, the fact sheet says.

This latest effort represents a change of tack for moderate-conservatives, who for more than a decade have tried unsuccessfully to wrest control of the SBC from fundamental-conservatives.

Most opponents of the new Southern Baptist leadership have abandoned national political strategies — such as trying to elect a sympathetic SBC president — and turned to alternative, non-political organizations such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Not all moderate-conservatives have been willing to surrender the Southern Baptist Convention to its new leaders, however. But rather than focusing on controlling the once-a-year Southern Baptist Convention, the latest effort is targeting laypeople directly, bypassing not only the denominational structure but potentially local church pastors.

"The fact of the matter is," Anderson explained, "pastors have been insulating laypeople from the truth by saying they don't want to bring the controversy to the church. That goes against Baptist polity by making the pastor the arbiter of information for the church."

Anderson said denominational relations committees, rather than

posing a threat to pastors, can help them. "For the pastor who says he doesn't want to do this through the pulpit, this gives him a way to do this through the church organization," Anderson said.

RUSCHLIKON

From page 3

owned by European Baptists, has been the center of controversy in Europe and the United States since Foreign Mission Board trustees voted to defund it last year.

Hopper had been told earlier by FMB officials that, to remain a missionary, he must cease fund-raising activities in the United States for the seminary. Board policy prohibits direct fund-raising by missionaries outside normal channels of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

"The board defunded us and we had no access to the Cooperative Program or Lottie Moon, so we have no other alternative but to raise funds," Hopper told Baptist Press. "To be honest in my relationships, I had to do the right thing — continue to raise funds and simultaneously resign as a missionary so as not to violate policy."

"I could walk away from the seminary but that's where my call from God is," Hopper said. "The seminary board affirmed my decision to resign rather than break Foreign Mission Board policy. I understand the policy and why it's there."

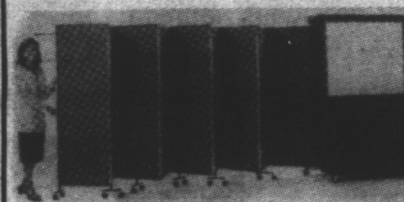
Hopper indicated that he may get an offer to affiliate with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of moderate Southern Baptist churches opposed to current Southern Baptist Convention leadership.

O'Brien is managing editor, News and Information Office, FMB.

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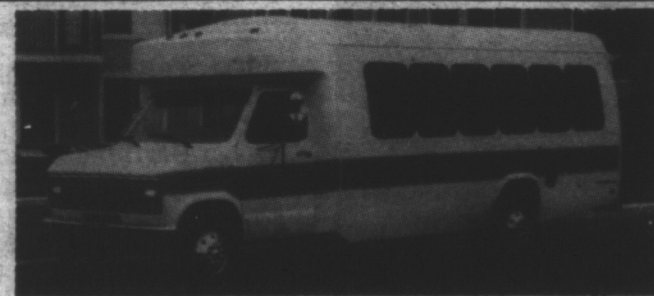
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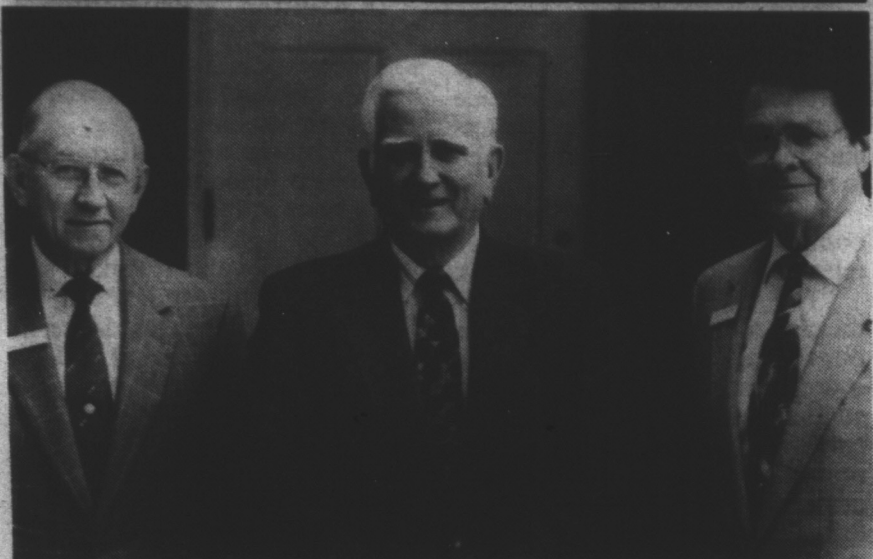
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Names in the news



NEW ORLEANS — Paul G. Moak Sr. (left), Jackson; and Bill R. Shelton (right), Albuquerque, N.M., stand with seminary President Landrum P. Leavell II in front of the John H. Martin Chapel on the seminary campus during a recent annual trustee meeting. Both men recently rotated off the board of trustees for New Orleans Seminary after serving several years.

Just for the Record



Curtis Guess, left, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board member from Neshoba Association, presents a check from MBCB to help rebuild New Harmony Church. The church was totally destroyed by fire Dec. 28, 1990. The Convention Board also provided a mobile chapel for the congregation during the time they were without a building. Through the gifts and work of church members, gifts of money, materials, and labor by the Convention Board, churches, businesses, and individuals, New Harmony now worships in new facilities.



Old Oak Grove Church, Myrtle, recently held a GA recognition. Shown left to right are Carol Peters, level 1 completed; Ginger Simmons, level 5 completed; Amanda Yager, level 4 completed; and Deborah Kiddy, leader.

Oakdale Church, Brandon, recently held a Lay Renewal Weekend, coordinated by Gene Bobo of Natchez. Over 35 lay persons from across the state shared testimonies and Bible study with the church. Three professions of faith were made. Michael Weeks is pastor.

Revival results

First, Poplarville: April 5-8; five professions of faith; Chuck Pourciau, Louisville, evangelist; Kathryn Barfield, Yazoo City, music; Bob Rogers, pastor.

Hope, Philadelphia: April 2-5; one profession of faith; three by letter; Carlton Jones, Carthage, evangelist; William Crenshaw, Philadelphia, music; Jimmy Young, pastor.

Bethlehem, Laurel: March 15-19; 19 professions of faith; three by letter; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; Jimmy Knight, Laurel, music; Walton Douglas, pastor.

New assistant exec. director joins MBMC

Sallye Wilcox has joined Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, as assistant executive director. She returns to MBMC after four years at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center, where she was vice president with responsibility over nursing and other clinical areas. Prior to her position at LeBonheur, she was nursing director at MBMC.

She attended the University of Mississippi School of Nursing, received her master's degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and a PhD in Healthcare Administration at the University of Mississippi.



Staff changes

J. C. Hatfield, minister to Married Adults, First Church, Jackson, has announced his retirement as of Sept. 1. He will be available to assist churches in growth campaigns, building programs, and leadership banquets. His address is 1460 Vernon Circle, Jackson, MS 39204 or call 601-373-1069.

Randall W. Turner has accepted the call as pastor of First Church, Laurel, effective May 10. He goes to Laurel after a six year pastorate at Parkway Church, Natchez. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

Southside Church, Yazoo City, has called Ralph Fuller as minister of youth effective in February. His previous place of service was pastor of Temple Church in Yazoo Association.

Greenfield Church, Greenville, has called Ed Campbell as pastor, effective April 12. A native of Minter City, he received his education at Mississippi College, and

International Bible Institute and Seminary. His previous place of service was East Mt. Zion Church, Baldwin.

Temple Church, Jackson, has called Jeff Harrison as pastor. He was licensed and ordained by Emmanuel Church, Pearl, and is presently continuing his education through New Orleans Seminary at Clarke College.

First Church, Lambert, added two new members to its staff. Jon Blouin of Batesville was called as minister of music. He received his education at New Orleans Seminary. Justin Kuiper, a sophomore at Mississippi College, was called as minister of children and youth. Stephen Huber is pastor.

Morgantown Church, Natchez, has called James A. Walters as pastor, effective May 1. Walters previously served Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula. He is a graduate of University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary.

Right to Life of Jackson has announced its seventh annual Mother's Day Eve Walk for Life, scheduled for May 9, at 9 a.m., starting from Cornerstone Church in Jackson Square. For more information, call 981-8181.

Enon Church, Winston County, has rescheduled its sesquicentennial and homecoming event for May 31. The celebration date was previously published as June 7. Mark Shaw is pastor.

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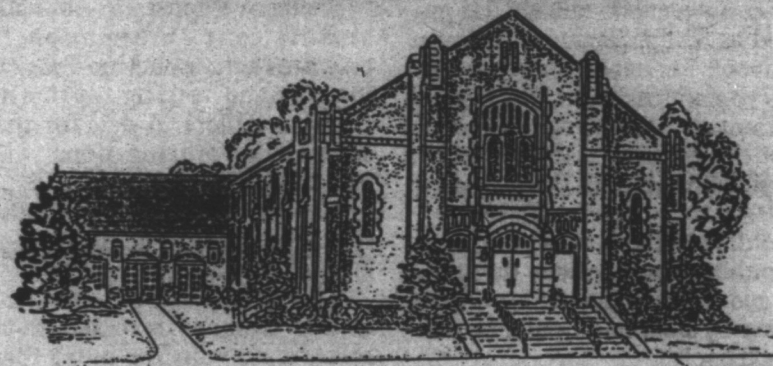
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Sunday Morning 9:45 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Landrum Leavell

LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE CHURCH

Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting June 7-8, 1992 Indiana Convention Center/ Hoosier Dome Indianapolis Theme: Lead Me, Lord

Sunday Afternoon, June 7

Lead Me, Lord, to Grow
2:30 Theme Interpretation — Silent Touch, Deaf Praise and Worship Group, Rhonda Long, tour director, Louisville, Ky.
Call to Order — Carolyn D. Miller, president, WMU, SBC, Huntsville, Ala.
Hymns — Laverne Melton, minister of music, First Church, Thomson, Ga.
Invocation — Carolyn W. Crumpler, Cincinnati
Response: "Spirit of the Living God"
Executive Board Report, "Lead Me, Lord, to Grow" — Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.
Presentation of National Acteens Panelists — Marti Solomon, Acteens specialist, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.
Leadership Profile: As God Has Led Me — Billye J. Brown, professor emeritus, school of nursing, University of Texas at Austin, Manchaca, Texas; Judy Hayes, registered nurse, Lawrenceville, Ga.
Special Music — Peggy Ray, GA consultant, Georgia WMU, Atlanta
Message: He Leadeth Me — Ann Griffith, home missionary, New York
Closing Meditation — Silent Touch

Sunday Evening, June 7

Lead Me, Lord, to Change
7:00 Theme Interpretation — Silent Touch
Invocation — Helen Fling, former WMU president, Birmingham, Ala.
Response: "Spirit of the Living God"
Executive Board Report: Lead Me, Lord, to Change — Dellanna W. O'Brien
Leadership Profile: Will You Accept the Challenge of Change? — Carol Childress, research and information manager, Leadership Network, Tyler, Texas
Feature: Lead Us, Lord, to Be Change Agents — Jim Queen, home missionary, Lincolnwood, Ill.; Heberto Becerra, home missionary, Manhattan, N.Y.; Thomas Canady, foreign missionary, Honduras; Bonnie Wiggs, foreign missionary, South Korea; Sheryl Churchill, interviewer, age-level specialists group manager, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.
Special Music — Laverne Melton
President's Address: Are You Ready for Tomorrow? — Carolyn D. Miller
Closing Meditation — Silent Touch

Monday Morning, June 8

Lead Me, Lord, to Confront
9:30 Theme Interpretation — Silent Touch
Invocation — Christine Gregory, former WMU president, Danville, Va.
Response: "Spirit of the Living God"
Executive Board Report, Lead Me, Lord, to Confront — Dellanna W. O'Brien
Leadership Profile: Confronting the City — Martha Wood, mayor, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Recognition of Local Committee
A Legacy: The Second Century Fund — Mary Helen Dixon, development specialist, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.
Offering for Second Century Fund
Feature: Confronting Today's Health Issues — Fred and Lavada Loper, home missionaries, Oklahoma City
Confronting World Religions — Peter Chen, home missionary, San Francisco
Closing Meditation — Silent Touch

Monday Afternoon, June 8

Lead Me, Lord, to Commit
2:00 Theme Interpretation — Silent Touch
Invocation — Alma Hunt, former WMU executive director, Roanoke, Va.
Response: "Spirit of the Living God"
Executive Board Report, Lead Me, Lord, to Commit — Dellanna W. O'Brien
Leadership Profile: Committed to a Purpose — Sheryl Brissett-Chapman, executive director, Baptist Home for Children, Bethesda, Md.
Reports: Is Your World Big Enough? — Catherine Allen, president, Women's Department, Baptist World Alliance, Birmingham, Ala.; Dorothy Sample, president, North American Baptist Women's Union, Flint, Mich.
Election of Officers
Message: Committed to a Difficult Place — Ethne Stainer, foreign missionary, Yemen
Closing Meditation — Silent Touch

Monday Evening, June 8

Lead Me, Lord, to Dare
7:00 Theme Interpretation — Silent Touch
Invocation — Marjorie McCallough, former WMU president, Alexandria, La.
Response: "Spirit of the Living God"
Executive Board Report, Lead Me, Lord, to Dare — Dellanna W. O'Brien
Leadership Profile: His Grace Never Fails — Linda Freeman, foreign missionary, Ecuador
Parting Praise

MBMC joins enhanced benefits program

Annuity Board comprehensive medical plan participants now can save money on medical care at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

MBMC is the latest facility to begin participating in the Baptist Hospital Enhanced Benefits Program, one of the enhanced benefits networks available to Annuity Board medical plan participants.

Enhanced benefits are available to participants and covered dependents in the Church, Seminarian, and Group Comprehensive Medical plans when they use certain preferred health-care providers, such as doctors, hospitals, and outpatient clinics. The enhanced ben-

efits generally include a reduction in the deductible and copayment and an increase in the percentage of reimbursement. Participants receive enhanced benefits when they use any participating provider, regardless of location. Providers are now in more than 90 locations nationwide.

On Sept. 13, 1991, the Annuity Board, in cooperation with a number of Baptist hospitals, launched the Baptist Hospitals Enhanced Benefits Program, which now has 41 Baptist hospitals in a dozen states. All comprehensive medical plan participants are eligible for enhanced benefits at any of these hospitals.

Gift dulcimer draws invitation from Kyrgyzstan

By Anne W. McWilliams

A walnut and poplar dulcimer fashioned by the hand of a generous Mississippi craftsman has traveled to Kyrgyzstan as a gift to the Minister of Culture. As a result, the state's Singing Churchmen have received their first invitation to sing in that part of the former Soviet Union.

Robert Sorey, deacon and Sunday School director, Pearson Church, made the dulcimer which has led to the Churchmen's plans for a series of concerts May 18-June 1, 1993, in the mostly Muslim land that borders on China.

Sorey, a Smith County native who has lived for many years in Pearl, has created 46 dulcimers since he began making them in 1979. "It takes about a week to make one," he said, "but I can make two or three at the time as fast as I can make one."

He added, "I've never bought the wood to go into one, and I've never sold one. I always give them away." People give him the wood — walnut, mahogany, cherry, poplar.... Some give it because they want him to make them one, and others simply because they are interested in his work.

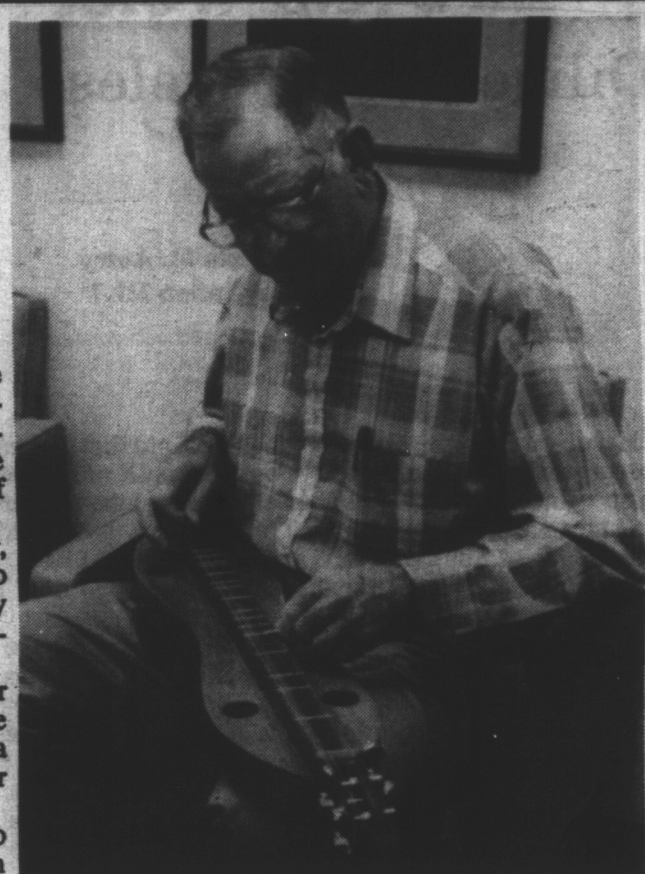
His desire to make dulcimers blossomed when he read a 12-volume set of books called Foxfire, and when he met at the state fairgrounds J. B. Keith of Clinton, only full-time dulcimer maker in the state.

The presentation of the dulcimer for Kyrgyzstan was to have taken place in Mississippi, but the Minister of Culture's visit did not materialize as planned. Instead, through the assistance of Mississippi International, an organization which is affiliated with Mississippi College, the instrument was sent via a representative of Cooperative Services International.

Sorey retired from his job with United Gas Pipelines in 1986, after 35 years. Of his and his wife's five children and nine grandchildren, one daughter's husband, Buddy Casey, is a minister of music. Though Elaine said she is not a musician she has the reputation of being "the best cook in Rankin County."

The 25th dulcimer Sorey made he gave to Connie Seane, another member of Pearson Church (and former employee of the state Church Music Department), who teaches a class for beginners in Pearl's Dulcimer Club. Sorey is also a member of the Dulcimer Club, which performs at churches, AARP meetings, schools, and nursing homes. Both Seane and Sorey say that through their music, especially through the Dulcimer Club, they find opportunities to witness to their Christian faith. One man who is a member of the class Seane teaches has started attending the Pearson Church.

As for the Churchmen's invitation to Kyrgyzstan, Sorey said, "We give the Lord credit for this. I don't believe this door opened without the Lord's help."



Robert Sorey plays his dulcimer.

BWA women provide money for Moscow office

WASHINGTON (BP) — Baptist women in the former Soviet Union will have a new fully equipped office in Moscow, thanks to the Baptist World Alliance's women's department.

The office will be a 10-minute drive from the present overcrowded offices of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, located in historic Moscow Central Baptist Church.

The BWA women's department also has funded the salary of an office director for a year and plans are under way to provide requested training for new officers.

This assistance was made possible by special contributions from Baptist churches, individuals, and women's groups in North America and Mexico during the past 12 months, said Catherine Allen of Birmingham, Alabama, women's department president.

The special fund-raising goal was reached in February 1992 with a gift of \$20,000 from First Church of Lumberton, N.C., from its foreign missions offering, designated to help purchase the office space. Also, the women's department received a grant of \$2,500 from the Second Century Fund of the Southern Baptist Woman's

Missionary Union for this purpose. Other gifts were made by women in several states. The Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union sent \$2,000, along with an additional \$1,000 to help pay the yearly salary for an office director. The Mexico Baptist Women's Union sent \$1,000.

"No one knows what will happen politically in the former Soviet Union, but one thing we do know is the women are doing wonderful ministries in their churches," Allen said upon her return.

"In the past, much of the women's work was done in secret," Allen explained. "Now the women are learning to work with public recognition, which has many challenges."

Women make up 85% of the church membership and lead in evangelism, Allen continued. Women are the "praying department" of the church, she said. "Most notable is the women's charity work, both among believers and non-believers."

1940 — The Mississippi Convention began participating in the Ministers' Retirement Plan of the Relief and Annuity Board.

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LIFE AND WORK

Diligent, yet loveless



By Lola M. Autry
Revelation 2:1-7

Have you ever been so busy "for" the Lord that you have lost sight of what Christ is all about? Louis IX of France (also known as Saint Louis) had engraved on the wedding ring he gave his bride, Margaret of Provence, these words: "God, France, Margaret." His explanation was: "I have no love outside that ring." He placed the love of God first. The others fell into proper places.

Jesus teaches in this passage that we must evaluate the extent to which love undergirds our efforts for Christ and his church.

The risen Lord: Upholding his churches (v. 1). Jesus told John, who was exiled on the Isle of Patmos for his love of Jesus, to write a letter to the church of Ephesus. Jesus identifies himself as the One who holds in his right hand the seven messengers of the churches. The churches are seen as seven candlesticks. There is a stark contrast between the ideal light of the star (messenger) and the light actually given off by the candlestick (church). Jesus is aware of all the church does.

Commendation: Diligent for truth (vv. 2-3, 6). Jesus names the good points of the church: labor, patience, hatred of evil, sure of doctrine of others, abhorring the wicked deeds of the Nicolaitans who practiced fornication and idolatry, and did not believe God created the universe. What do our churches rate by these standards? Jesus was pronouncing the good points before he mentioned the bad. We sometimes think our "good" outweighs the evil. Not so with Jesus. He praises the good and judges the evil.

Accusation: Abandoned love (v. 4). In spite of all the good we do in this world, we sometimes miss the mark because we have not put first things first. Jesus accused the church of Ephesus of just that. "You've left your first love." What is he talking about? These people had a good church going. They worked hard for the church. They were servants of the church. They kept trying, no matter what. Then Jesus sends them a message: In spite of all the good things you accomplish, you are failing! How disappointed they must have been.

Using the criteria of Jesus, how disappointed he must be in some of our efforts — efforts we proclaim to put forth that the church might prosper. If we look carefully, we will understand Jesus' point. In our busyness we have proclaimed him by our speech to be Lord, but have really put him in second place. It is wonderful to be about the Lord's business, but only if it is accomplished because of our love of him is the reason — not because of our own sense of place or duty. Herschel Hobbs says the church of Ephesus was doctrinally correct and busy as a beehive, yet it had lost its zeal for winning the lost, its primary purpose.

Exhortation: Remember, repent, do (v. 5). Jesus spells out the remedy: remember where you came from (the depths of sin to his saving grace), repent (recognize your failings and turn from them), do (practice doing what you did when you first were saved — go back to your first love — the works which you did that proclaimed him). A cold, orthodox church is a church in need of a renewal transfusion of the primary love of Christ that caused it to be in the first place.

Promise: Eternal life (v. 7). Heaven, in the presence of God, is the reward. Not just for a little while, but for eternity. Jesus calls us to renewal and revitalization of the basics. Love him first. Allow love's zeal to be pre-eminent in our churches. Then serve him and him alone.

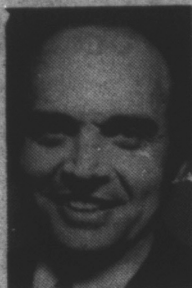
A little girl hugging her dolls, wistfully said, "I love them, but they never love me back." Jesus must feel that way when we say we love the church, but we have lost our zeal for him.

Autry, a member of Pine Grove, lives in Hickory Flat.

*Remember the National Day of
Prayer, May 7.
II Chronicles 7:14*

BIBLE BOOK

Paul's motivation for ministry



By Charles Nestor
2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

Paul continues to deal with the problem of his adversaries. They are attempting to discredit him with the Corinthian people. This is a normal attack used by Satan; to discredit the witness of God's people. These tactics are still being used. In his discussion, Paul shifts to the subject of motivation; his motivation for ministry.

I. The certainty of God's judgment (5:11-13). In the verses just before this passage Paul reminds his readers that every person must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. He encourages them to get ready for this event. His knowledge of the fact the judgment was coming motivated him to try to win people to Christ. Paul's defense is based on his need for winning others to Christ. Others had come to Corinth and were teaching a gospel that was not genuine. They were undermining the foundation Paul had taught. They claimed Paul was irrational or insane. Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that everything he did was for their benefit and for the glory of God. He was called to be a witness to people; to get them ready for the judgment.

We need to hear Paul today. There are people everywhere who are not prepared for the judgment. There are other groups who are knocking on the doors of unbelievers, as well as Christians, and sharing a false gospel. It is an attempt of Satan to undermine and discourage the work and ministry of Christ. When over half of God's people never attend Bible study or worship, we could conclude that Satan is rather effective. We are commanded to study the Word of God and to share the truth with the world.

II. The greatness of Christ's love (5:14-15). Christ demonstrated his love for the world by dying on the cross for our sins. That was the real motivation for Paul. Jesus' death was a sacrifice for all people; regardless of nationality, etc. Since Jesus died in our place, we owe our lives to him, here and in eternity. Paul's affirmation is that we are to die to self and to be made alive in Christ. This is our reasonable response: to offer back to him the lives that he saved. We need to preach and teach the great love Christ has for all people. When we truly acknowledge the extent of Christ's love for us, we cannot help being motivated to serve him. "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). How many friends do you know like that?

III. Paul's commission from Christ (5:16-6:2). In Christ, Paul was a new creation. He had died to the old person and had been resurrected as a new person. Paul no longer evaluated people from just a human perspective. He tried to see them as God saw them. The term "in Christ" was the most common description used by Paul to describe a Christian. For him, that meant to believe in, trust, commit to and in Jesus. This life is possible by the grace of God. It is not something we can do for ourselves; the old has gone and everything has been made new. Paul had been reconciled to God; he exchanged separation from God for closeness to God.

In addition, God had given him the ministry of reconciliation. Now he was an ambassador for Christ. His mission was to lead others to be reconciled to God. His appeal was and is enhanced with the message that Christ, who knew no sin, gave his life for all sinners. He bore the consequences of our sin so that we could be made the righteousness of God in him.

Every believer has received the same commission; we are ambassadors for Christ. We are to be living witnesses of the need for the unsaved to be reconciled to God. It is only possible through Christ; the One who knew no sin, but became sin for us. We are not to be discouraged by our critics. We are to spend time in the study of God's Word so that we are equipped to share the truth: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Commit yourself to be an ambassador for Christ!

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

UNIFORM

Witnessing in suffering



By Bobby Williamson
1 Peter 3:13-4:11

We live in a very "soft" society. The mentality of our world today is to do everything the easy way and not to have to pay a price for doing things the right way. Our lesson this week confronts this issue of opposition and rejection. None of us likes to be rejected, or to suffer opposition, but as Christians we must look to God's Word to find the proper manner in which we are to deal with the issues of life.

I. The Christian response to opposition (3:13-18). Matthew Henry tells us the patient humble behavior of Christians is recommended and urged from two considerations. The first is that it will be the best and surest way to prevent suffering: "For who is he that will harm you?" This speaks of Christians in an ordinary condition, not in the heat of persecution. Ordinarily there will not be those who do harm to those who live innocently and usefully. Secondly, this is the way to improve sufferings. "If you be followers of that which is good, and yet suffer, this suffering is for righteousness sake." Henry says to learn first to follow always that which is good, for it is the best course we can take to keep out of harm's way.

Secondly, to suffer for righteousness' sake is the honor and happiness of a Christian. To suffer for the cause of truth, a good conscious, or any part of a Christian's duty, is a great honor. The delight is greater than the torment, the honor more than the disgrace, and the gain much greater than the loss.

Thirdly, Christians have no reason to be afraid of the threats or rage of any enemies. "Your enemies are God's enemies, his face is against them, his power is above them."

Peter declares that as Christ suffered unjustly, Christians are to suffer for righteousness' sake in such a way that they bear witness for Christ. We must not only suffer opposition, but we must learn to suffer opposition in such a way that we bear witness for Christ, and that the world sees Christ in us. Verse 18 tells that Christ was put to death in his human nature, but he was quickened and raised again by the Spirit. If Christ was not exempt from suffering, why should we as Christians expect to be exempt?

II. Motivation for pure living (4:1-6). Several times in the New Testament we are told to be of the same mind as Christ. Many of the strongest arguments against sin are taken from the sufferings of Christ. All sympathy and tenderness for Christ as a sufferer are lost if you do not put away sin. He died to destroy it. It is important to note that though he willfully submitted to the worst of sufferings, he could never submit to the least sin. This should be our mind-set. We should be willing to suffer for the cause of Christ, but we should be striving to resist sin in our lives.

III. Christian conduct in light of the end (4:7-9). Peter writes that in light of the nearness of the end, Christians are to live in a godly manner. As each of us considers that each day we move closer to the end, we should each be alerted to the soberness of the fact that we do not have much time left to live our lives for God, nor to win this world to Christ.

IV. Use of spiritual gifts (4:10-11). If you are a born-again believer, God has gifted you for the furtherance of his work. Peter exhorts every believer to use his gift well. It is an amazing thing that many believers are not even aware of the spiritual gift of gifts. We should each discover our gifts and use them in our daily lives and the life of our local church, that we might be the witness this world needs. Let us each commit to discover our spiritual gifts that we each might be used more of the Lord.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

*"A woman that feareth the Lord, she
shall be praised" (Prov. 31:30).
Happy Mother's Day, May 10*

THE VILLAGE VIEW

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Feb. 1, 1992 -
Feb. 29, 1992

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Roland (Sarah)
Pennington
Mr. & Mrs. D. Z. Young
Van Pentecost
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald C. Creed
Mrs. C. Dewitt Pigott, Sr.
Judge & Mrs. Joe N. Pigott
Mrs. R. E. Pinion, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice

Louise Pinion
Mrs. Frank Williams Jr.
Mr. Charlie Pitts
Mr. & Mrs. George Burton
Mr. Virgil Poe
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Cliburn
Louise Polk
Jane Polk & Family
Novella Prichard
Mrs. Taylor H. Bennett
Mr. Fred E. Purvis, Sr.
Mrs. Willis T. Matthews
Mrs. Lula Hutson Purvis
Dr. & Mrs. Eugene I. Farr

Mr. Harold Rabby
Ms. Ota N. Assaf, Bernette &
Ruth
Mr. Curtis N. Raspberry
Mrs. J. H. Dame
Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Doty III
Mrs. Joyce Ray
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Shepherd
Mrs. Lula Ray
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Fulgham
Mrs. Pearl Golden
W. R. Ray
Ms. Audye Kilpatrick

William David Reid
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis E. Miller
Mr. Horace "Rich" Richmond
Mr. & Mrs. Barley Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L.
Hollimon
Mrs. Allie Robertson
Lt. Col. Oscar L. Bond Jr.
Mrs. Bernice Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering
Mr. Sammie V. Rochelle
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering
Mrs. J. Wesley Miller
Mr. Ralph Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Guess
Mr. A. Semmes Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Percy Peeler
Mrs. Frank E. Sills
Mrs. Thelma Ross
Mrs. Dora Lowe
Mrs. W. J. Ross
Mrs. D. H. Ratcliff
Otis C. Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Otis P. Key
Mrs. Eulee Rowell
Mr. & Mrs. L. L. Stokes
James Russell
Mr. & Mrs. Amos Arender Sr.
Mrs. Gertie Russell
Mr. & Mrs. Joel W. Howell
Mrs. Lucille Maxwell Ryle
Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Sims
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Tucker
Mr. Charles Warren
Mr. & Mrs. C. S. Woodruff
Mrs. Mary Elvia Sanders
Applied Engineering
Company

Mrs. Robbie Saunders
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Catledge
Ms. Ann Beck Collier
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Crosthwait
Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn E. Crowe
Mrs. Lois P. Currey
Mrs. Ernest A. Currey Jr.
Mrs. E. C. Shackelford
Mrs. Susan Scirratt
Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor
Betty Sconyers
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. McElroy
Mr. Rufus Self
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H.
Kendall
Mrs. Frances Pickett
Shackelford
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Tiffany
Mr. Marvin "Jack" Simmons
Mrs. Scott Oberschmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Luther R. Adams
Mrs. Singley
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Neal
Broadus R. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Norris Wray
John Smith
Jane Polk & Family
Mrs. Carlos Smith
The Joe Young Family
Mrs. Paul Sprinkle
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Martin
Mr. Virgil Steed
Yale Street Baptist Church
Mrs. Evelyn Steed
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Sharp
Mrs. Josephine B. Stephens
The Louis E. Fancher Family
Mrs. Rivers Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. John O. Hemphill

**Make Plans Now
Coming Up
Saturday, August 8, 1992
Bi-annual Alumni
Reunion**

Mrs. Betty Lou Stratt
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hardage
Mr. O. E. Strickland
Mr. & Mrs. Haughey D.
Wallace Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Bill C. Wilson
Mr. Earnest Stringer
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Guess
Gary H. Stubbs
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Jones
Ray & Benji Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Billy W.
Breithaupt
Mrs. Mamie Thompson
Mrs. Mattie L. James
Rev. & Mrs. Howard T.
Scarborough
Mrs. Ruth Trim
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Knight
Miss Kathleen Thornton
Mr. Benton E. Cain
Mr. R. L. Touchstone, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Kelly

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Touchstone
Mrs. Elsie McPhail
Mrs. Margarte Townsend
Encourager SS, FBC
Columbus
Mrs. E. Rotenberry
Mr. Johnny Tribble
The Joe Young
Billy Moore Triplett
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Tiffany
Mr. Bob Turman
Forest Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. J. Vernon Pace Jr.
Mrs. Ruth Vance
Mr. & Mrs. Ward Jackson
Mrs. Mary Vandevender
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering
Mary Addie Vandevender
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Tucker

(To be continued)

Bulletin Inserts available for use on
Mother's Day and for use with
Video Tape by same title:
Does Anybody Love the Children?

Call your Director of Missions Office or
The Baptist Children's Village and ask for a
copy of the video to view with your group.

Does Anybody Love The Children

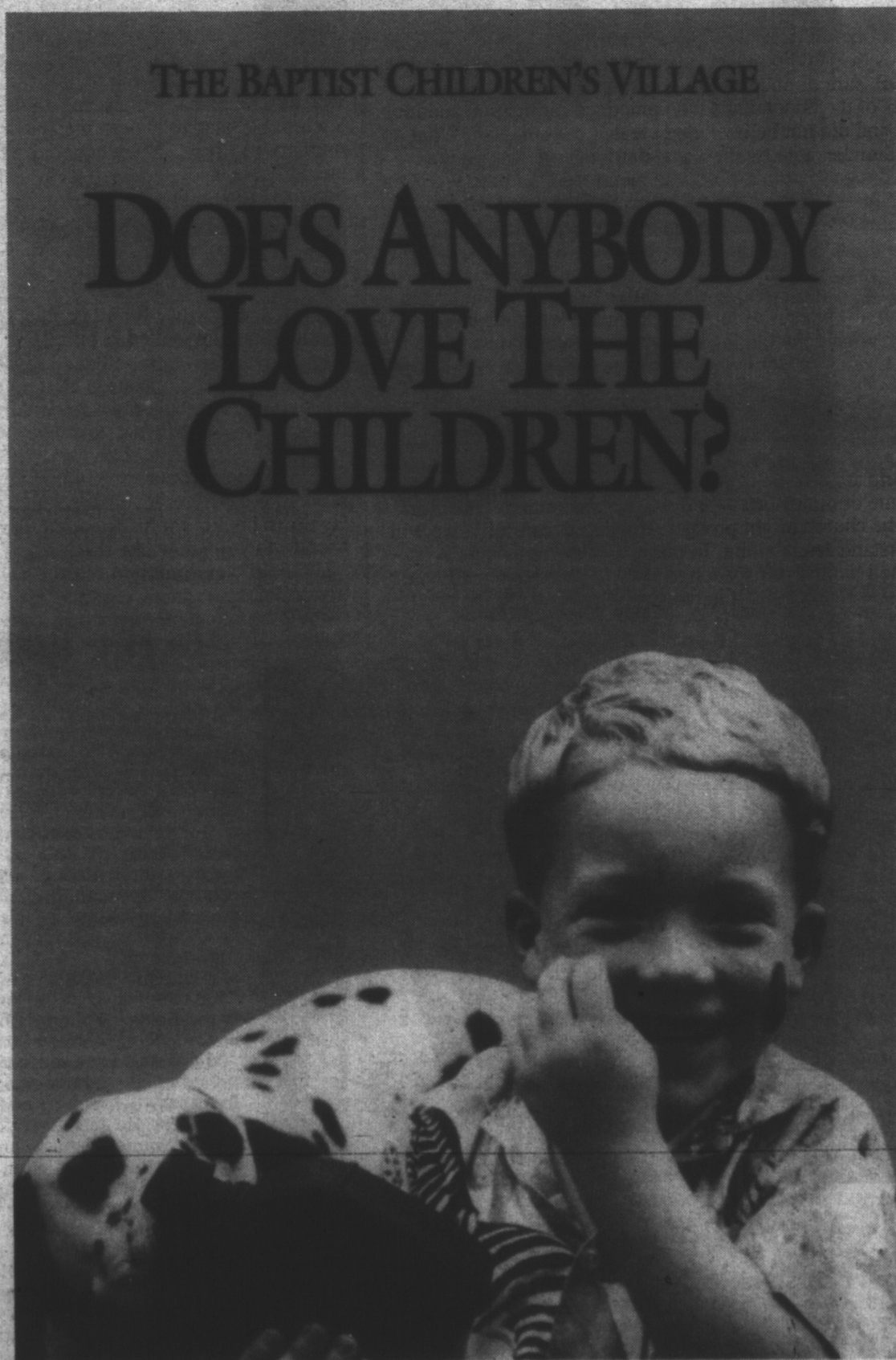
For almost 100 years Mississippi Baptists have provided a stable alternative to hurting children and their families through the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village. We began as The Baptist Orphanage taking Mississippi children whose families could not function because of loss of parents or financial difficulties.

Through the years the needs have changed and we have changed to meet those needs. In the early 1960's our name was changed to reflect our service to those neglected and dependent children whose parents could not or would not care for them. Today The Baptist Children's Village is called to minister to, and restore the dysfunctional family that is burdened with any of the multitude of problems that assault our society, including sexual and physical abuse, neglect, alcohol and drug abuse and teen pregnancy.

In our 21 cottages we can care for over 200 children at one time. During the last 12 months we have ministered to nearly 500 different boys and girls. This requires a cash flow of over \$7,000.00 a day. Fourteen percent of our total operating budget comes through your Cooperative Program gifts. The other 86% comes from individuals, individual churches, and church families throughout our state.

The challenges we face are great. Will you help us love God's children?

**MOTHER'S DAY 1992 BUDGET GOAL
\$330,000.00**



Reception will honor Wilda Buckley, 1st, Clinton, kindergarten director

First Church, Clinton, kindergarten/preschool director Wilda Buckley, who has been a "second mother" to countless Clinton-area children, plans to retire in June. She began work at the church 30 years ago.

According to Bill Baker, pastor, "She is everything one could desire in a preschool and kindergarten director."

She was born in Marion County, and attended Pearl River Junior College, where she won All-State honors as a guard on the women's basketball team her sophomore year.

After receiving a degree in home economics from the University of Southern Mississippi, she taught school for three years — at Pinola and then at State Training School, in Columbia.

When she married her husband Ralph in 1954, they moved to Canton. Mrs. Buckley began a seven-year career as the 4-H Club Agent/Assistant Home Agent for the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service. After her second daughter Kathy was born in 1961, says Mrs. Buckley, "I quit, never to work outside the home again — or so I thought."

The family moved to Clinton in 1962, and she worked as church hostess 1962-67.

Her involvement in the kindergarten program began on Nov.

16, 1964, when Mrs. Evie Goodrich asked her to help out during preparations for a Christmas program.

At first, she read stories to the children, loaded cars, made refreshments, and helped on the



Wilda Buckley

playground. Soon she found herself teaching. She became kindergarten director in 1968.

Attendance at the kindergarten peaked in the late 1970s, before the advent of public kindergarten, when there were 15 teachers and 175 students. This year, there are 90 students and six teachers. Over the years, Mrs. Buckley has worked with at least 43 kindergarten teachers.

In addition to her kindergarten duties, Mrs. Buckley also oversees other programs for preschoolers at First Church.

After more than 27 years, Mrs. Buckley says she has never doubted her calling. "If the Lord had a place for me, it was working with preschoolers at First Baptist Church."

Now, however, she and husband Ralph will work on their farms in Marion and Simpson counties and travel some, as well as spend time with their children — Reta Haire, a teacher at Jackson Prep; Kathy, a CPA at Chick-fil-a in Atlanta; and John, a forester in Pike County.

The City of Clinton has proclaimed May 10, 1992, as "Wilda Buckley Day."

First Church, Clinton, will honor her at a reception in the Fellowship Hall, May 9, from 2 until 4 p.m. Friends, students, former students, and parents are invited.

Carey students go on mission to Indiana

Twenty-seven B.S.U. students from William Carey College participated in a mission trip to southern Indiana during spring break. The mission team, under the direction of Candace Myers, worked in conjunction with Clifford Church and the South Central Association of Clifford, Indiana. Dan Reynolds, pastor of Clifford Church, and Jeff and Sheila Rimes from the association, assisted in organizing the week's activities. Jeff is a Carey alumnus serving as a US-2 missionary in Indiana.

The students divided into four teams and ministered in four different churches and missions. On Sunday

evening, revival services, targeted for young people, began at Clifford Church. Carey students planned, organized, and implemented each night of worship. The students led in music, gave testimonies, shared special music, performed dramas, and preached.

During the week the students surveyed neighborhoods and subdivisions to locate church prospects and to share the Gospel with non-Christians. Carey student Tracy Leonard said, "I realized on our trip to Indiana that God calls all Christians to serve him and be a witness, and I do not have to be perfect to be

used. God really made clear to me that the only perfect thing about all Christians is that we serve a perfect God."

The B.S.U. ministered in this same area of Indiana last year, and this year they found a new Baptist mission going strong in a town that previously had no Baptist witness.

Carey student Steve Mangum said, "This mission trip gave me a chance to get closer to God. I feel much closer to him as a result of this trip, and I am more aware of the needs in my own community."

"Is the adversary my attitude?"

By Don Stanfill

As David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along the hillside over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him (2 Sam. 16:13).

Here is a warring man, who does not know that he is the real enemy. Shimei had only contempt for David the man of God. He was a sorehead with a sore arm from throwing all those stones. Shimei was an adversary and an accuser of the man chosen of God. This man is no visitor in our pews, choirs, or even our pulpits. He is an unpleasant regular whose attitude disrupts, and defiles our personal relationships with God and man. This war-filled man lived many years ago; yet his critical, cold, and joyless spirit is alive today. He lives so close to us we often do not recognize him.

We are like the fighter in his first fight told by his coach, "You're doing great. He hasn't laid a glove on you." Quickly the fighter replied, "Do me a favor and keep your eye on the referee, because somebody out there is killing me."

For some it's not the devil but the disposition that's killing them. This adversarial man boldly draws battle lines, and seeks to break up peace tables. He envisions a peace table as a sign of weakness. He gets more pleasure ridiculing a brother than being reconciled to one. Shimei displays an habitual hatefulness. He draws his sword at the drop of a hat. He is often found building a gallows for some unsuspecting Haman. He demands his rightful reverence, and loves to exercise his authority. He is a bragger on his own virtues, but blind to the bitterness of his own spirit.

One man evaluating his pastor said, "Our preacher is like a yard dog. He barks at everything, and gets his greatest joy in looking for skunks."

There must never be miles between what we preach and what we practice. As someone has said, "I have discovered the greatest of all battlefields, and it's not on enemy territory. It's within my own heart."

Is our adversary our attitude?

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart . . . (Psa. 51:17).

Stanfill is director of missions, Lafayette/Marshall Associations.

Med Center installs radiotherapy machine

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center is installing an advanced radiotherapy machine to be used in treating cancer patients at its Radiation Oncology Center. Because of the linear accelerator's size, a crane had to lift the large portions of the machine through the atrium of the Radiation Oncology Center to be assembled in the treatment room. Equipped with many new features, the Varian Clinac 2100C linear accelerator will provide cost-effective, clinically versatile treatment modes to the patients. MBMC is the only private hospital in the state with the latest model of the Varian Clinac 2100C. Keesler Air Force Base also has the linear accelerator.

1942 — Mississippi College purchased Hillman College and became coeducational. There was a heated discussion among the alumni of Mississippi College over the change, but the Board of Trustees of the college voted 50% in favor of the change.



Missionary battles cancer

IF I CAN'T GO, SOMEONE ELSE CAN — Kathy Lloyd (second from right) was seen participating in a quilting project with other American and Korean women in South Korea in this 1989 photo. Bone cancer has forced her to leave the mission field, but "if I can't go, someone else can go," she said. "Maybe that's why God's brought me back . . . to challenge people" to go overseas as missionaries. (BP photo by Ginny Whitehouse)



Baptist Record

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May 7, 1992